**The Kentucky Nitrogen Removal Program**

The Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection, Energy and Environment Cabinet manages the NPDES surface water discharge program. Based on communication with the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection permitting and water quality planning staff there no municipal or publicly owned (POTW) NPDES major dischargers, (over one million gallon per day average flow) that have total nitrogen or nitrate nitrogen limits at this time.

Kentucky has begun monitoring for nitrate and total nitrogen and has included monitoring at 64 wastewater treatment plants ranging in size from 1 million gallons per day up to 20 million gallons per day. Future planning will include evaluation for nitrogen limits for the Ohio River. This is part of the Gulf of Mexico/Mississippi River nutrient reduction initiative as the Ohio River flows into the Mississippi River.

Kentucky has a Nutrient Reduction Strategy that is focused on reducing nutrients entering Kentucky waters. A draft of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy has been developed but not finalized that includes source identification, ongoing programs, monitoring and targeting to prioritize watersheds. Through this strategy, the state has a goal of developing Source Specific Strategies for Nutrient Management. The strategy balances nutrient reductions from point sources and nonpoint sources but does not yet include a plan for developing numeric nutrient criteria.

There are 4 industrial dischargers with nitrogen limits at this time. They are all food processing or rendering facilities. The NPDES permit discharging limits for these facilities is 134 mg/l total nitrogen based on a monthly average.