**The Maine Nitrogen Removal Program**

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services in 2009 as part of the TMDL for the Great Bay Estuary published a proposal for the numeric criteria for wastewater treatment facilities discharging into the Great Bay Estuary. The Great Bay Estuary is located in southwestern Maine and includes the Great Bay and Little Bay.

There are four wastewater treatment plants that discharge into the Great Bay Estuary. Of the four facilities in Maine discharging into Great Bay none are large enough to potentially need supplemental carbon for denitrification. The facilities have been issued consent orders that will allow up to 5 years to place the nitrogen removal facilities into operation. It is not anticipated that the Maine wastewater treatment facilities discharging into Great Bay will require supplemental carbon within the next 5 years.

Casco Bay is the other major estuary with nutrient concerns that is under study. The Casco Bay has six POTWs and one paper mill where total nitrogen discharges are being evaluated. Nutrient criteria development is presently in the evaluation phase with a draft report scheduled for completion in 2016. The draft report will outline specific nutrient removal criteria for nitrogen. Subsequent to the review and approval of the numeric criteria for nitrogen it is likely that it will be greater than five years before actual nitrogen removal limits and removal processes will be required.