**The Michigan Nitrogen Removal Program**

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality manages the NPDES surface water discharge program.

Based on communication with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality permitting and water quality planning staff there are 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.

The state of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has recently completed in June 2015 a strategic water quality planning report, “Sustaining Michigan’s Water Heritage”. The report centers on the states 11,000 lakes including the Great Lakes. The strategy outlines a 30 year water quality plan that calls for the reduction of phosphorus by 40% entering the western portion of Lake Erie and better phosphorus management for dischargers into lakes. The plan calls for protection of rural water supply wells and the monitoring of nitrate nitrogen in aquifer systems. If elevated nitrate levels are shown to be from small wastewater or community wastewater treatment facilities nitrate nitrogen limits could be required for aquifer protection. Michigan does not have any future total nitrogen permitting plans for wastewater treatment plants at this time.

There is one large meat processing facilities that has a total nitrogen concentration limit. Three other food processing facilities have monitoring limits for total nitrogen. The food processing facility that has an NPDES permit for nitrogen is based on the federal EPA technology based limit of 134 mg/l total nitrogen monthly average and 194 mg/l total nitrogen maximum month. Poultry and beef processing facilities that discharge into a municipal wastewater treatment facility have local limits that vary in the amount of nitrogen discharged into the municipal system. However, the municipal receiving facilities do not have a total nitrogen permit limit.