**The Minnesota Nitrogen Removal Program**

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency manages the NPDES surface water discharge program.

Based on communication with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 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 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency completed in May 2015 a strategic water quality planning report, “Minnesota Nutrient Reduction Strategy”. The report centers on the states lakes as with most mid-western states and on phosphorus reduction. The strategy for the Mississippi River outlines a planned 20% reduction in total nitrogen discharged into the Mississippi River watershed in Minnesota by 2025 and a 45% reduction by 2040. At this time Minnesota has not begun monitoring of nitrogen discharged from wastewater treatment plants discharging into the Mississippi River watershed. They will be phasing in nitrogen monitoring in future permit cycles. The strategy covers both non-point agricultural sources and point source wastewater treatment facilities. Minnesota presently has a protection plan in place for rural water supply wells. Minnesota requires a permitted total nitrogen limit of 10 mg/l total nitrogen for groundwater or spray discharge systems. These are generally smaller individual wastewater or community wastewater treatment facilities well below one million gallons per day in wastewater flow.

There are two large meat processing facilities that have a total nitrogen concentration limit. The food processing facilities have an NPDES permit for nitrogen is based on the federal EPA technology based limit of 103 mg/l total nitrogen monthly average and 147 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.