**The Missouri Nitrogen Removal Program**

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources manages the NPDES surface water discharge program.

Based on communication with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources 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. Future planning will include evaluation for nitrogen limits for the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. This is part of the Gulf of Mexico/Mississippi River nutrient reduction initiative.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources recently completed a report, “Missouri’s Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy” in December 2014 that is a collaborative strategy to bring practical nutrient reduction to Missouri’s waters. The strategy outlines a program of statewide monitoring of nitrogen and phosphorus for wastewater treatment plants (industrial and municipal) of a permitted flow capacity of greater than 100,000 gallons per day. The monitoring requirement is being phased in upon the renewal of the water treatment facilities NPDES permit. The program goal will be to develop a statewide database of wastewater treatment plant nitrogen and phosphorus removal capabilities to serve as a baseline for future nitrogen and phosphorus removal limits for the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers.

The only dischargers with nitrogen limits are for poultry and meat processing facilities. There are a total of 13 meat and poultry processing facilities in Missouri. The poultry and beef dischargers with an NPDES permit discharging directly into a waterway have the federal EPA technology based limit of 103 mg/l total nitrogen monthly average and 147 mg/l total nitrogen maximum month. One facility a Tyson Foods poultry processing plant has a discharge limit of 25 mg/l total nitrogen that is lower than the federal EPA technology limit. Poultry and beef processing facilities that discharge into a municipal POTW have local limits that vary in the amount of nitrogen discharged.