**The Nebraska Nitrogen Removal Program**

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality manages the NPDES surface water discharge program and state ground water discharge permit programs. Based on communication with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality there are no municipal or publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities that are NPDES major dischargers, (over one million gallon per day average flow) that have total nitrogen limits and no municipal facilities that are using supplemental carbon at this time.

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality does not have a published nutrient strategy currently. Nebraska has numeric total nitrogen standards for lakes and reservoirs, but not for streams or rivers. While ammonia is a standard constituent with (WLAs) waste load allocations on most municipal NPDES permits, total nitrogen and nitrate nitrogen are not included as effluent limitations in NPDES permits. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality is working with the University of Nebraska to gather data to develop stream and river numeric nutrient criteria. While preliminary total nitrogen numeric criteria have been developed, there are no plans to introduce these criteria into future NPDES permits within the next five years.

There are twenty wastewater treatment facilities that serve meat packing, processing, rendering and fertilizer manufacturing plants in Nebraska. The wastewater treatment facilities at the meat packing plants with an NPDES permit are covered under the EPA industry standard nitrogen limit of 134 mg/l total nitrogen average monthly limit and 194 mg/l maximum monthly limit. Facilities discharging to the ground water are covered under a state discharge permit. Two meat processing facilities are currently using crude glycerin from a biodiesel plant as the supplemental carbon source to achieve permit limits.