**The Utah Nitrogen Removal Program**

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality manages the NPDES surface water discharge program. Based on communication with the Utah 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 or require the use of a supplemental carbon source.

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality has published in 2010, “A Statewide Nutrient Removal Cost Impact Study,” The study evaluated the cost for nitrogen removal at municipal wastewater treatment plant at two levels, 20 mg/l and 10 mg/l total nitrogen limits. A draft nutrient strategy was also developed in 2014 as a technical basis for the Utah nutrient strategy.

To date this report is still in draft form and has not been finalized.

Approximately 80 percent of the point source dischargers in Utah are located along the Wasatch Front. The wastewater treatment plants discharge into Utah Lake, the Jordan River, or the Farmington Bay quadrant of the Great Salt Lake. Numeric nutrient criteria have not been developed for these water bodies. The Jordan River Farmington Bay Water Quality Coalition, a partnership of the Wasatch Front wastewater treatment plants, developed a strategy for establishing nutrient criteria across the state. The Water Quality Coalition developed several guiding principles to be used in the development of the implementation document for nutrient criteria. One of the criteria requires balancing nutrient reductions between point and nonpoint sources. “Point sources should be regulated to a technically achievable economic end point not limits of technology.” Suggested effluent nutrient limits are 15 to 20 mg/L total inorganic nitrogen. The anticipated schedule, as developed by the Coalition, provides until 2020 to complete the nutrient criteria development and until 2030 to implement the criteria into the NPDES permits. It is unclear if this schedule will be maintained, or if a more accelerated schedule will be required by EPA Region 8 or Utah Department of Environmental Quality.

There is one large meat processing facilities in Utah that has a NPDES discharge permit with nitrogen limits of 134 mg/l total nitrogen average month and 194 mg/l total nitrogen maximum month. This facility does not require a supplemental carbon source to achieve the nitrogen permit limit