**The Wisconsin Nitrogen Removal Program**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Recourses manages the NPDES surface water discharge program.

Based on communication with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 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 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources completed in November 2013 a strategic water quality planning report, “Wisconsin’s Nutrient Reduction Strategy”. The report centers on the states lakes with an aggressive phosphorus reduction permitting program with very low phosphorus limits. There are no nitrogen limits planed for wastewater treatment facilities discharging into lake. The strategy for the Mississippi River outlines a planned 45% reduction in total nitrogen discharged into the Mississippi River watershed in Wisconsin form the 19995 baseline year loading. However, a firm time schedule to establish the 45% nitrogen load reduction was not spelled out in the report. At this time Wisconsin has begun quarterly monitoring of nitrogen discharged from NPDES major (>1 million gallons per day) wastewater treatment plants discharging into the Mississippi River watershed. Quarterly monitoring has also required for meat, poultry and cheese manufacturing facilities discharging into the Mississippi River watershed. Wisconsin has a ground water discharge limit of 10 mg/l total nitrogen for all facilities discharging to the groundwater.

There are three 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 134 mg/l total nitrogen monthly average and 194 mg/l total nitrogen maximum month. Additionally one cheese processing facility has a total nitrogen limit of 10 mg/l. 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.