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January 15, 2019

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January 15, 2019

RE: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System Permits, Water Quality Standards, and Municipalities

Dear Committee Chairs and Ranking Minority Members:

Please find attached the 2018 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System Permits, Water Quality Standards, and Municipalities, written and submitted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. This report is being submitted pursuant to Laws of Minnesota 2015, First Special Session chapter 150, article 4, section 101. This law changed the language of Minn. Stat. § 115.44, subp. 9. This report presents the Municipal Wastewater Division activities in permitting, standards development, outreach, and innovative approaches.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call Greta Gauthier at 651.757.2031, or Aaron Luckstein, at 507.206.2606

Sincerely,



Greta Gauthier

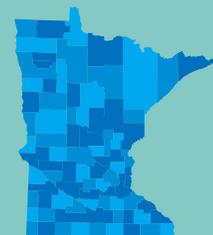
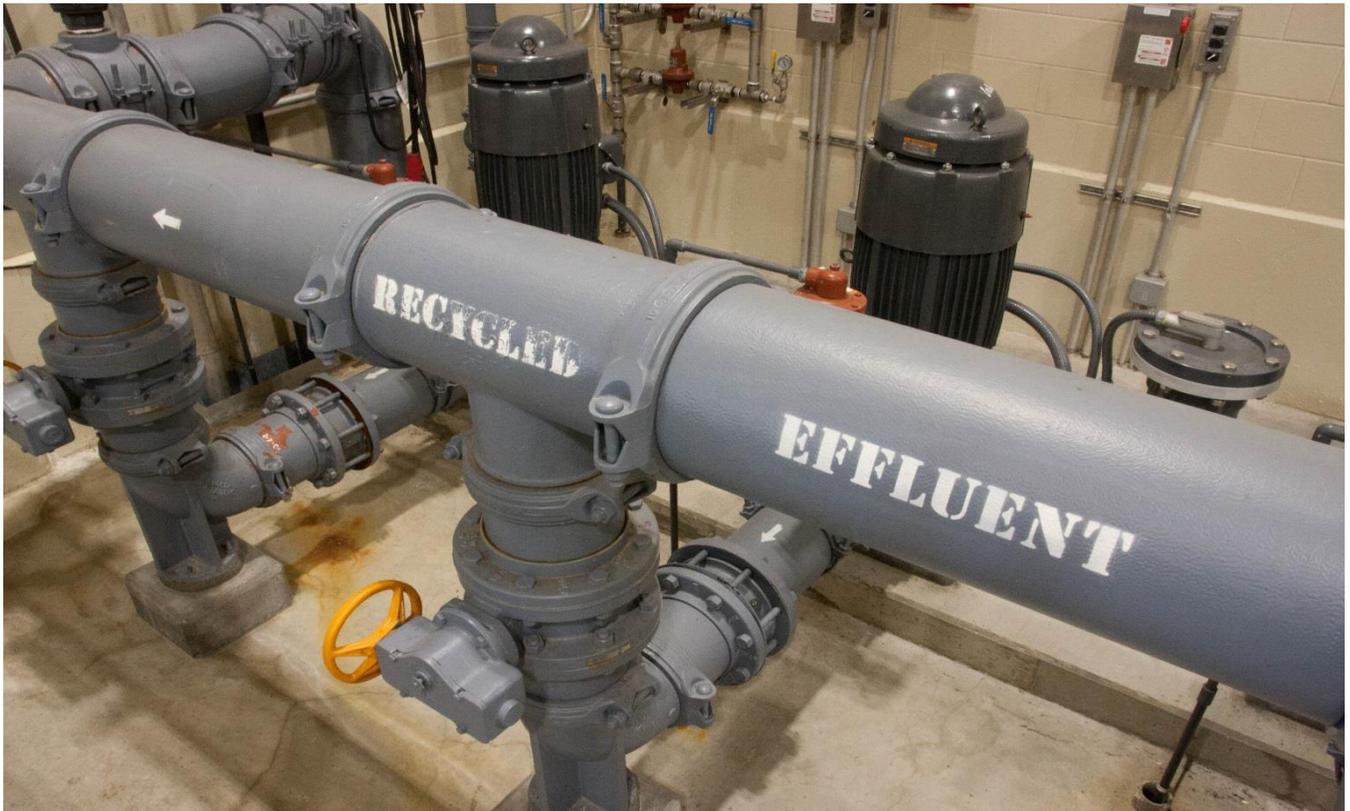
Legislative Director  
Commissioners Office

GG/AL:mb  
Enclosure

cc: Senator Carrie Ruud  
Senator Chris Eaton  
Representative John Persell  
Representative David Lueck  
Suzanne Sobotka, Policy Advisor to Governor Tim Walz

January 2019

# National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System / State Disposal System Permits, Water Quality Standards, and Municipalities



## Legislative charge

This report fulfills the requirement of Laws of Minnesota 2015, First Special Session chapter 150, article 4, section 101. This law changed the language of Minn. Stat. § 115.44, subp. 9.

The agency shall report on the activities the previous calendar year to implement standard and classification requirements into National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) permits held by municipalities. This includes:

- A summary of permits issued or reissued, including any changes to effluent limits due to water quality standards adopted or revised during the previous permit term.
- Highlights of innovative approaches implemented by the agency and municipalities to develop and achieve permit requirements in a cost-effective manner.
- A summary of standards development and water quality rulemaking activities over the previous calendar year, including economic analyses.
- A summary of standards development and water quality rulemaking activities anticipated for the next three years, including economic analyses.
- A process and timeframe for municipalities to provide input to the agency regarding their needs based on information provided.
- A list of anticipated permit initiatives in the next calendar year that may impact municipalities.
- The agency's plan for involving municipalities throughout the planning and decision-making process, including opportunities for input and public comment from municipalities on rulemaking initiatives prior to preparation of statements of need and reasonableness.

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The MPCA is reducing printing and mailing costs by using the Internet to distribute reports and information to wider audience. Visit our website for more information.

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## Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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This report is available in alternative formats upon request, and online at [www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us).

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# Foreword

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This report includes a description of activities that occurred during the previous calendar year to implement water quality standard and classification requirements into National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) permits held by municipalities.

The purpose of this report is to share information with municipalities about permitting-related activities that have occurred over the past year and that are anticipated for the near future, to:

1. Foster awareness of and engagement in Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) initiatives that may affect municipalities.
2. Promote coordination and dialogue between the MPCA and municipalities on permitting and water quality improvement efforts.

The MPCA wants to extend a thank you to all Minnesota cities for their efforts to keep Minnesota's waters safe and clean for future generations. This hard work is fundamental in improving our water quality and providing safe and clean water to the citizens of Minnesota.

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# Acronyms

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ALASD	Alexandria Lakes Area Sanitary District
ALJ	Administrative Law Judge
CBOD	Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
IRRB	International Red River Board
MnTAP	Minnesota Technical Assistance Program
MDH	Minnesota Department of Health
MPCA	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
MRWA	Minnesota Rural Water Association.
NOC	Notice of Coverage
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
RRBC	Red River Basin Commission
SDS	State Disposal System
TSD	Technical Support Document
WQS	Water Quality Standard
WQBEL	Water Quality Based Effluent Limits
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

# Permitting summary

The following section describes MPCA's efforts to issue NPDES permits to municipalities in keeping with the Clean Water Act, and applicable state rules and statutes.

## Municipal permits and new effluent limits

This section includes a summary of permits issued or reissued during the previous calendar year; including any changes to permit limits (i.e. effluent limits) due to water quality standards (WQS) adopted or revised during the previous permit term. The below figure illustrates the difference between WQS and permit limits and how they are related.

### Water quality standards and permit limits: What's the difference?



New water quality based effluent limits (WQBELs) may be assigned when a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) permit is issued or reissued. In 2018, the MPCA issued or reissued 45 individual permits and 88 general permit notices of coverage (NOC). Of these, 20 of the individual permits assigned a new WQBEL and 29 of the NOCs assigned a new WQBEL. Eight of the 49 new WQBELs were based on a water quality standard adopted within the last five years and are subject to this report.

To determine if limits are necessary to protect receiving waters, MPCA must conduct a reasonable potential analysis. This is an analysis of the impact of a wastewater discharger on a receiving water. It shows whether the facility has the ‘reasonable potential’ to cause or contribute to an exceedance of a water quality standard. If the answer is “yes”, then a limit is assigned to protect the waterbody. Eight facilities received new phosphorus WQBELs for the river eutrophication standard (RES). The RES were adopted in 2015, and as a result, are subject to this report (Table 1).

**Table 1. Wastewater Treatment Plants receiving WQBELs in 2018 based on a water quality standard adopted within the past five years.**

River Eutrophication Standard
Annandale/Maple Lake/Howard Lake WWTP
Cold Spring WWTP
Delano WWTP
Glencoe WWTP
Montrose WWTP
Saint Martin WWTP
Starbuck WWTP
Windom WWTP

Twelve facilities received a new WQBEL in a reissued individual permit in 2018 on the basis of standards that are over five years old (Table 2). It is important to note that these 12 limits are **not** derived from new water quality standards, and therefore, are not subject to this report. However, MPCA is using this report to communicate new limits, and has therefore included the information.

**Table 2. Wastewater Treatment Facilities receiving WQBELs in 2018 based on a water quality standard adopted over five years ago.**

Lake Eutrophication	Mercury	“Salty” parameters
DeGraff WWTP	Aitkin WWTP	Emmons WWTP – specific conductance
Grasston WWTP	Bluefin Bay on Lake Superior WWTP	Windom WWTP – chloride
Lucan WWTP	Ely WWTP	
Millerville WWTP	Mountain Lake WWTP	
Saint Martin WWTP		
Zimmerman WWTP		

In addition to the above, Fergus Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) received a chronic toxicity limit. Also, the cities of DeGraff and Long Prairie completed an antidegradation analysis to allow for an increase of their design flow. Conventional pollutants, such as Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and CBOD, were set to avoid degradation of the waterbody. Therefore, these limits were not derived from a “new” water quality standard, but are included in this report for transparency.

The NPDES/SDS Pond General permit was finalized December 1, 2018. The MPCA is issuing Notices of Coverage (NOCs) to the pond permittees in batches. The first batch of 88 NOCs were issued on

December 26, 2018. Twenty-nine of the 88 NOCs assigned a new phosphorous WQBEL. These new limits are not subject to this report as they were assigned to comply with the lake eutrophication standards that were adopted in 2008. Listed in Table 3 below are the NOCs that included new a WQBEL for lake eutrophication standards. All twenty-nine wastewater pond permittees listed in Table 3 below are able to meet the new phosphorus WQBEL with their existing pond system and no need for construction. See the Pond section of this report for more information.

**Table 3. Wastewater pond facilities receiving WQBELs in 2018 based on a water quality standard adopted over five years ago.**

Lake Eutrophication	
Alden WWTP	Granada WWTP
Avoca & Iona WWTP	Hancock WWTP
Bricelyn WWTP	Hartland WWTP
Ceylon WWTP	Hoffman WWTP
Danvers WWTP	Kiester WWTP
Delavan WWTP	Milroy WWTP
Ellendale WWTP	Murdock WWTP
Elmore WWTP	Pemberton WWTP
Evansville WWTP	Russell WWTP
Farwell Kensington Sanitary District WWTP	Ruthton WWTP
Flensburg WWTP	Sobieski WWTP
Frost WWTP	Sunburg WWTP
Geneva WWTP	Tyler WWTP
Ghent WWTP	Urbank WWTP
Gilman WWTP	

## Permit process changes

### Required disclosures; for NPDES permit holders

Legislation passed in the 2018 Legislative Session required the commissioner of the MPCA to provide an applicant for a NPDES permit with a written summary of all available methods for participation in the permit process, including an explanation of all procedures for challenging and appealing a decision of the MPCA or a permit requirement included in any draft of a final permit ([Minn. Stat. § 115.03, subd. 5d.](#)).

The MPCA developed a fact sheet that summarizes the ways permittees can participate in the NPDES permitting process. The fact sheet is titled "[How you can participate in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System \(NPDES\) permitting or administrative penalty order \(APO\) enforcement process](#)" and is located on the MPCA webpage at: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/introduction-wastewater-permits>. The location of the fact sheet is provided to the permittee at the beginning of the permitting process, when the MPCA sends notification that the permit application has been reviewed and determined to be complete.

The MPCA is committed to cultivating open lines of communication with permittees throughout the permitting process. We want to clearly and transparently communicate with permittees about their draft and final permit. Transparent communication means MPCA staff are available to engage in conversation with permittees throughout the permitting process.

## Compliance schedules

Legislation passed in the 2018 Legislative Session requires the commissioner of the MPCA to consider current debt service on existing municipal wastewater treatment infrastructure when developing compliance schedules for new effluent limits in municipal NPDES permits ([Minn. Stat. § 115.456](#)). Any compliance schedule for new effluent limit(s) in municipal NPDES permits must be developed in a manner consistent with state and federal law to maximize the repayment of existing debt on wastewater infrastructure before requiring additional capital infrastructure upgrades. In addition and to the extent allowable under federal law, the commissioner may issue compliance schedules in municipal NPDES permits for new effluent limit requirements in excess of 20 years.

A compliance schedule is a permit tool that allows time and interim reporting to lead a facility to full compliance with a water quality based effluent limit (WQBEL). It can be related to construction or other step-wise processes.

To fulfill [Minn. Stat. § 115.456](#), some basic financial information must be submitted as part of the municipality's justification for a compliance schedule to meet a new effluent limit. The MPCA developed a [current debt load worksheet](#) that can be used by municipalities to submit this information to the MPCA. A link to the worksheet is included in the new limit notification letter that the MPCA sends to the permittee.

## Effluent limitations; compliance

In 2018, the Minnesota Legislature enacted [Minn. Stat. § 115.455, which states:](#)

*To the extent allowable under federal law, for a municipality that constructs a publicly owned treatment works to comply with a new or modified effluent limitation, compliance with any new or modified effluent limitation adopted after construction begins that would require additional capital investment is required no sooner than 16 years after the date the facility begins operating.*

This new statute is also referred to as the Protection of Water Quality Investment Act. The MPCA developed a Protection of Water Quality Investment Act fact sheet that outlines the criteria upon which this statute applies and how it will be implemented in NPDES permits. The fact sheet is located on the MPCA webpage at: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/introduction-wastewater-permits>.

# Summary of water quality standards development

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This section describes work on new or revised water quality standards during the 2018 calendar year.

## Wild rice sulfate standard

The Minnesota legislature in 2011 directed the MPCA to undertake further study and, as necessary, revise the wild rice standard.

Following the study period, in August 2017, the MPCA proposed revisions to the wild rice standard. The goal of the revisions was to:

1. Revise the numeric standard to incorporate the latest scientific understanding of the impacts of sulfate
2. Clarify the beneficial use and which waters support the beneficial use

### 3. Clarify what it means to meet or exceed the standard

As required by Minnesota law, the proposed revisions were reviewed by an administrative law judge (ALJ). The judge, with concurrence of the Chief ALJ, disapproved the revisions in January 2018. As articulated in the ALJ report, the main reasons for the disapproval were that the MPCA's proposed equation based standard was unconstitutionally vague, presumably because of the lack of data to immediately calculate the results of the equation for each waterbody. The ALJ also disapproved the list of wild rice waters, stating that waters contained on lists compiled by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and 1854 Treaty Authority had already been designated as wild rice waters and that the MPCA should have included those as proposed wild rice waters. The MPCA provided additional information to the ALJ and Chief ALJ in March 2018, arguing for the equation based standard and disputing the judge's characterization of the designation of the wild rice waters. However, the Chief ALJ upheld the disapproval in April 2018. The MPCA then withdrew the proposed revisions and changes have not been promulgated.

## **Revision of existing Class 3 (industrial consumption), Class 4 (agriculture and wildlife) designations, and associated water quality standards (WQS)**

A draft technical support document (TSD) for revising the Class 3 and Class 4 use class designations and the associated WQS is nearing completion. The MPCA expects the draft TSD will be out for public comment in early 2019. Following public comment, the TSD will go through formal peer review. The scope and timeline for the peer review process is unknown at this time and will depend in part on the public comments received.

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/amendments-water-quality-standards-use-classifications-3-and-4>.

## **Outreach**

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MPCA understands the need to communicate with municipal permittees to convey rules, statutes, and standards that may affect the conditions under which they are permitted to discharge wastewater to waters of the state. This section highlights those efforts to communicate with transparency and candor.

### **Clean Water Discussion Series**

In early December 2018, MPCA held its first meeting of the Clean Water Discussion Series. This builds on listening session in 2016 and 2017. Our goal was two-fold:

1. To develop a strong, healthy professional relationship with City Administrators/Managers and Wastewater professionals.
2. Recognizing that there are many perspectives on clean water policy, to actively develop opportunities for all those perspectives to have an equal opportunity to be shared and heard.

In order to achieve these goals, we need to be intentional about our approach and employ three strategies:

1. Reach out to stakeholders
2. Be authentic
3. Engage in active, constructive communication with stakeholders

We are implementing these strategies through a series of meetings with representatives of stakeholder groups, including:

- [League of Minnesota Cities](#)
- Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities
- Minnesota Rural Water Association
- Minnesota Environmental Science and Economic Review Board
- Minnesota Association of Small Cities
- [Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association](#)
- Association of Metropolitan Municipalities
- Metropolitan Council

Clean Water Discussion Series members have agreed to meet quarterly, with agendas that allow each group to give a report out on their issues of concern and focus areas.

We will prioritize the areas and work through the priority list to implement practices in areas of agreement and work to bring resolution to areas of disagreement.

## **North and South Forks of the Crow River Watershed meeting, Delano Minnesota**

MPCA wastewater staff met with about 30 permit holders in the Crow River Watershed on May 29 at the City of Delano to talk about the impact of new standards, MPCA's phosphorus limit review approach, water quality trading, the emerging chloride challenge, and topics that the 2018 Legislature addressed. After MPCA presentations, there was a question and answer session and time for permittees and MPCA staff to meet in small groups to discuss specific issues. All sides seemed to agree that the meeting was helpful and productive.

The meeting allowed MPCA to provide advanced notice of new limits to permit holders. Staff provided a more detailed explanation of water quality in the Crow River Watershed and how it will improve in the coming years. The meeting also provided an opportunity to connect directly with permittees and to listen to their concerns.

Following the Crow River Watershed meeting, a survey was sent out to better understand how well information was communicated. Of the 30 community representatives that attended, 16 responding to a follow-up survey:

- 63% of participants were wastewater plant managers or operators
- 25% were consultants
- 12% were city officials

When asked about the clarity of the information presented at the meeting, the listed proportion of attendees said information on the following topics was "very clear" or "somewhat clear":

- Phosphorus limit approach: 87.6%
- Water quality trading: 87.5%
- Chloride limits and permitting approach: 81.3%
- Legislative updates: 93.8%
- Next steps: 93.8%

In addition, 75% agreed they had an opportunity to have their concerns heard.

One respondent said, “Your staff was very helpful answering questions in the free time after the meeting and called me back a couple days later to give me more information on questions I had.”

## **Municipal outreach for chloride**

Communicating with municipal permittees about the unique permitting issues presented by chloride has been a major effort for MPCA in 2018. We conducted 14 site visits to hold conversations with municipalities about chloride discharges, to implement the approach recommended by the Chloride Working Group adopted by MPCA in 2017, and to provide options available to address chloride limits. To date, we have six pending chloride variance applications. MPCA is working closely with The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 in Chicago in order to help facilitate EPA review and approval of these variances once the state variance process is complete.

The pending applications include:

- Alexandria Lakes Area Sanitary District
- Avon
- Altura
- Madison
- Sacred Heart
- Tri-City Sewer District (Wells, Easton, Minnesota Lake)

Other municipal permittees that are required to address chloride may take advantage of additional time to reduce chloride concentrations through schedules of compliance, through source reduction and central softening, or through optimization of home softeners. Trading may also be a viable option. As each municipality’s system is unique, we work with them individually to arrive at a solution cooperatively. It has also been MPCA’s practice to invite representatives from Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to share their expertise on drinking water systems.

## Municipal outreach for total phosphorus

MPCA conducted extensive outreach to individual permittees to discuss phosphorus, with 21 site visits (Figure 1). The purpose of these site visits is to describe water quality assessments, limits, funding opportunities, and options for permit compliance. Figure 1 does not include additional visits conducted by permit writers and compliance and enforcement staff, to provide assistance.

The MPCA recently posted an online tool that provides the status of watershed phosphorus effluent limit reviews: [www.pca.state.mn.us/water/phosphorus-wastewater](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/phosphorus-wastewater). These reviews include phosphorus limits for some municipal and industrial wastewater treatment facilities (WWTFs). The MPCA has been working on this online tool since holding listening sessions in 2016, when several permit holders said they wanted an easy way to know the status of their reviews.

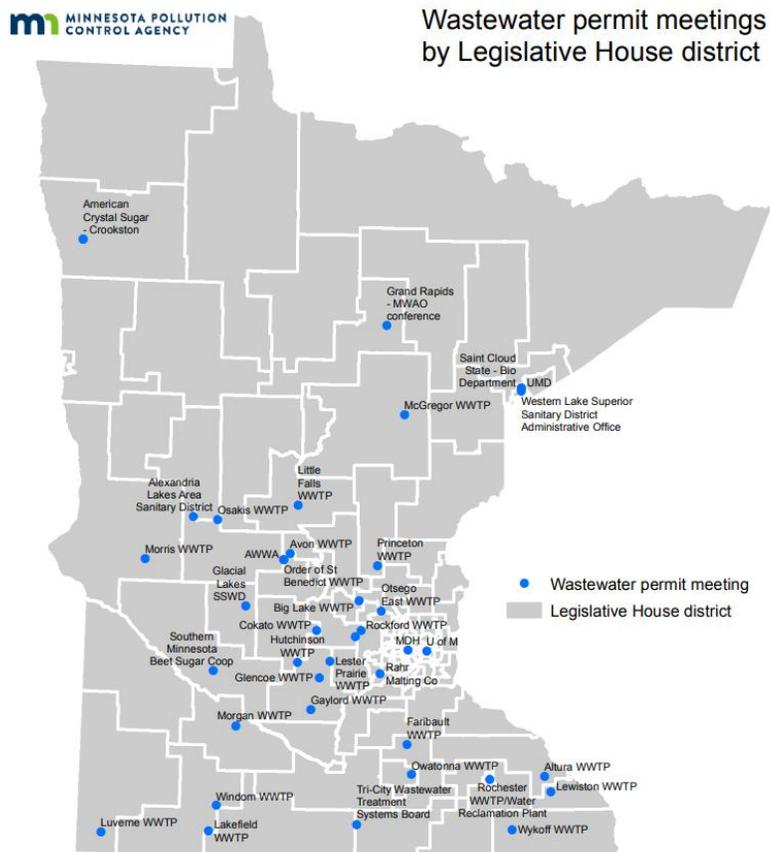
The watershed phosphorus effluent limit reviews are part of Minnesota's implementation of River Eutrophication Standards (RES) adopted in 2014. The purpose of the river standards is to reduce the intensity of nuisance algae in rivers to protect aquatic life, including fish, bugs, and rooted aquatic plants. Since adoption of the standards, the MPCA has been completing phosphorus reviews on a watershed basis to determine what, if any, total phosphorus limits need to be established for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) permit holders. This watershed-based approach ensures that phosphorus limits are protective of aquatic life. It also helps to ensure that point sources are required to reduce only their fair share of phosphorus while meeting Minnesota's water quality goals. Out of a total of 80 watersheds statewide, 36 phosphorus watershed reviews are complete and an additional 17 are in progress. The MPCA plans to complete the remaining reviews by the end of 2019.

Please note that phosphorus limits included in the watershed reviews are not final until included in a new or reissued NPDES/SDS permit.

The MPCA will update this online tool as it completes watershed reviews. If the watershed status is marked "complete" on the webpage, then a copy of the review can be requested by sending an email to the MPCA Data Desk ([datadesk.mpca@state.mn.us](mailto:datadesk.mpca@state.mn.us)) with the watershed name and term "phosphorus review" included in the message title.

For more information about watershed reviews and/or phosphorus limits, please contact Steve Weiss of the MPCA at [steven.weiss@state.mn.us](mailto:steven.weiss@state.mn.us) or 651-757-2814.

Figure 1. Map of wastewater-related site visits from MPCA staff conducted in 2018.



# Innovative approaches

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MPCA continues to look for opportunities to work with municipal permittees to better establish a partnership in clean water.

## Optimization Pilot Program

The 2018 Legislature funded, through the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, a project to explore the capacity for optimization to improve wastewater treatment through optimization. This \$700,000 pilot project provides for five wastewater treatment plants, and up to 30 wastewater treatment ponds, to work with MPCA's project partners, Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP), and Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA) for two years to evaluate and implement optimization activities. The final report will function as a field-guide for operators across the state who seek to improve nutrient treatment through optimization before investing in infrastructure improvements, which could include such activities as adjusting pumping rates, or increasing or decreasing oxygen levels.

Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA) is contracted for \$390,000 to fund a full-time wastewater pond expert to travel statewide, recruiting for the pilot

program, and guiding facilities operators through the process of improving nutrient removal without costly infrastructure improvements. In addition, participating facilities will also receive asset management instruction and Minnesota Water Agency Response Network information to support facilities during and after catastrophic events.

MnTAP is contracted for \$310,000 to engage mechanical wastewater plants to evaluate the capacity available to them through better operator understanding of data and process control. MnTAP will employ several upper-class engineering students to build each facility in a modeling software that is predictive of results using both measured and assumed inputs.

**Figure 2. MnTAP Staff and MRWA evaluate a control structure between two pond cells on an Optimization Site Visit. This effort is a collaboration of MnTAP, MRWA, and MPCA, funded through Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, and managed by MPCA.**



## ALASD adaptive lake management permit development

In early 2018, MPCA and representatives of the Alexandria Lakes Area Sanitary District (ALASD) board of directors began developing a new permitting approach to protect water quality, and remediate the impairments of two lakes, while avoiding expensive physical upgrades to the facility. Under the conditions of the new permitting approach, adaptive lake management activities will be employed and will include removal of an invasive common carp species, prevention of carp repopulation, and application of alum in a second lake in the chain.

ALASD discharges effluent into Lake Winona, which is classified as a shallow lake, having a maximum lake depth of seven feet. Lake Winona discharges into Lake Agnes, which discharges into Lake Henry. All three lakes are impaired for eutrophication – excessive algae growth. These impairments have required a phosphorus limit of 0.157 mg/L to address ALASD’s part of the solution and to restore the water quality to meet the lake eutrophication standards.

Through adaptive lake management, MPCA will allow ALASD the time necessary to study the carp behavior and ultimately remove a carp infestation from Lake Winona that continually uproots plants and suspends phosphorus-rich sediment. If all goes as planned, the absence of the carp will promote establishment of native aquatic plant species, leading to greater water clarity. Carp barriers will also be installed where Lakes Winona and Agnes connect, preventing the carp from returning to Lake Winona.

Lake Agnes, which is also currently impaired for excessive algae growth, linked to ALASD’s effluent, will be treated with alum. This chemical treatment will cause the suspended phosphorus that leads to algae growth to precipitate out of the water column and be sequestered in the sediment below.

If these activities are successful, an alternate phosphorus limit of 0.25 mg/L and 665 kg/year will become effective in ALASD’s NPDES permit. However, adaptive lake management practices require that if one activity does not work, another becomes necessary. If the carp management in Lake Winona does not achieve the desired effect of a net reduction in algae growth, as measured by chlorophyll-a, ALASD will be required to make investments in the physical infrastructure of the wastewater treatment facility, thereby ensuring that the water quality of Lake Winona and Lake Agnes are ultimately improved. ALASD will have two permit cycles (10 years) to evaluate the effectiveness of the adaptive lake management techniques.

## **Red River municipal permitting approach**

In 2014, the MPCA developed a Revised Approach for Implementing Total Phosphorus Effluent Limits in the Red River Basin. Using that approach, the MPCA issued two permits with effluent limits for phosphorus. Since 2014, there have been two separate efforts within the Basin to address nutrient management. These efforts include projects by the International Red River Board (IRRB) and the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC).

The IRRB has been working to develop targets for phosphorus and nitrogen concentrations and loads in the Red River at the international border and at the rivers outlet to Lake Winnipeg. In 2018, the IRRB presented a draft proposal with targets for both phosphorus and nitrogen.

In 2016, the RRBC received funding from the Minnesota Legislature to develop a basin wide nutrient reduction strategy. The RRBC completed development of the strategy and submitted a final report in 2018. The RRBC is now preparing to implement the strategy.

In addition, some cities within the Red River Basin have made significant progress in voluntarily reducing their phosphorus discharge. In recognition of this progress and the fact that the IRRB and RRBC efforts will both have an impact on how nutrients will be managed in the basin, the MPCA has is exploring with the Red River Basin cities an alternate permitting approach.

The MPCA will continue to work with the cities to ensure that these efforts address their concerns while maintaining progress towards meeting phosphorus effluent goals for the basin.

## Pond general permit

The MPCA has final issued the NPDES/SDS [Wastewater Pond General Permit](#) No. MNG585000. The permit was issued December 1, 2018, for a term of five years. This general permit authorizes surface water discharges from controlled discharge wastewater pond facilities.

The MPCA is issuing Notices of Coverage (NOCs) to the pond permittees in batches. The first batch includes 88 pond facilities. The first batch of NOCs were issued on December 26, 2018. A list of all pond facilities included in the first batch can be found on the MPCA website:

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-wwprm9-27a.pdf>.

Pond facilities not included in the first batch of NOCs will remain covered under the expired [Stabilization Pond General Permit No. MNG580000](#) or the facility's individual permit until included in a future batch of pond facilities that will be issued NOCs under the [new general permit](#) or until they are issued individual permits.

For more information on the [new general permit](#) and the batch process of issuing NOCs, see the Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) fact sheet on the MPCA website:

[www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-wwprm1-33.pdf](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-wwprm1-33.pdf).

## Municipal needs covered in this report and chances for input

The MPCA is hoping to receive comments from individuals or municipalities on this report, and those comments can be submitted at any time. Comments provided this year will be incorporated into the 2019 report. Please submit comments to Joel Peck, municipal liaison for the MPCA, at 651-757-2202 or [joel.peck@state.mn.us](mailto:joel.peck@state.mn.us).