

Using TMDLs to Restore Water Quality in the Rock River Basin

Key Facts for Municipal and Industrial Wastewater Permittees

About Municipal and Industrial Dischargers in the Rock River Basin

- There are 61 municipal dischargers and 15 industrial dischargers that contribute 26.5% of total phosphorus (TP) and 2.5% of total suspended solids (TSS) loading to the Rock River Basin.
- Wastewater Treatment Facilities have Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) discharge permits that regulate many pollutants including total suspended solids and total phosphorus.
- For municipal wastewater dischargers, baseline loads of TP were set equal to loads consistent with 1mg/L and the design flow for the facility.
- For municipal wastewater dischargers, baseline loads of TSS were set to loads consistent with limit in the permit and the design flow for the facility.
- For industrial wastewater dischargers, current loads of TP and TSS were calculated using an average of actual loads reported to WDNR in their Discharge Monitoring Reports.

The phosphorus targets in the Rock River Basin are consistent with statewide phosphorus criteria. Numeric targets for this TMDL were based on a science-driven process.

Allocating Total Phosphorus and Total Suspended Solid Loads to Municipal and Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facilities

- For individual municipal and industrial wastewater dischargers, allocations are in proportion to each discharger's contribution to the baseline load.

How Will the TMDL Affect Municipal and Industrial Dischargers in the Rock River Basins of Wisconsin?

- Discharge Waste Load Allocations (WLA) will be expressed in permits as annual and monthly averages along with daily maximum mass effluent limitations, consistent with the WLAs that are in the approved TMDL.
- Since a WLA from an approved TMDL is expressed as a Water Quality Based Effluent Limit (WQBEL) in the WPDES permit, the permittee may seek a variance from the limit pursuant to s. 283.15, Wis. Stats.
- NR 217 adaptive management strategies may be recognized as a mechanism to achieve water quality goals in an equitable manner.

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