



Total Nitrogen for NPDES/SDS Reporting

It has come to the attention of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) that incorrect values are sometimes being reported on Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) for total nitrogen when National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) or State Disposal System (SDS) permits require total nitrogen monitoring and reporting.

As a result, the MPCA is clarifying the definition of Total Nitrogen and updating the permitting policy on Nitrogen monitoring and reporting as follows:

Total Nitrogen (TN) = Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN) + [nitrate (NO₃) and nitrite (NO₂)]

This clarification is intended for MPCA required NPDES and SDS permit compliance reporting. The MPCA has always intended that **total nitrogen** be reported as **the sum of total Kjeldahl nitrogen and nitrate plus nitrite**.

Please report nitrogen values as required by NPDES/SDS permits. As permits are re-issued, permittees will be required to report each of these as three separate values, so please provide these values on laboratory reports:

1. TKN
2. NO₂ + NO₃ (reported as N)
3. Total Nitrogen as the sum of (TKN) + (NO₂+NO₃)

This information is also being communicated to permittees. If a facility has questions, they can contact their MPCA permit writer, compliance and enforcement staff or the MPCA's Environmental Data Quality Unit.