



FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Agency: Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy
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 Date Prepared: September 22, 2023
 Phone: (402) 471-4201
 Title: Water Quality Standards Coordinator
 Name: Title 117 - Nebraska Surface Water Quality Standards
 Chapters: 1, 2, 3 4, 5, 6, & 7

State Status: Hearing Draft

Type of Fiscal Impact:

	State Agency	Political subdivision	Regulated Public
No Fiscal Impact	x		
Increase Costs		x	x
Decrease Costs			
Increased Revenue			
Decreased Revenue			
Indeterminable			

Description of Impact:

All costs of the proposed revisions to Title 117 relate to the proposed designation of primary contact recreation to 870 stream segments. All other proposed revisions have negligible fiscal impact.

State Agency: The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy may incur minor additional workload involved with approving plans and specifications for wastewater treatment facilities that need to install *E. coli* disinfection capabilities. The Department may also have more projects under its Clean Water State Revolving Fund to finance disinfection at these facilities. Any additional workload can be managed with existing staff and fiscal resources. Overseeing the addition of *E. coli* disinfection

capabilities at some wastewater treatment facilities directly relates to the Department's statutory duty to protect the public health and welfare through the adoption of water quality standards, as expressed in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-1505(2).

Political Subdivision: Twelve wastewater treatment facilities will be required to add disinfection capabilities in order to meet *E. coli* effluent limits in their NPDES permits. This would be required at permit renewal and potentially through a compliance schedule. These facilities are all owned by communities ranging from a population of 242 up to 24,907. The estimated cost of these improvements is from \$103,851 for the smallest project to \$1,009,033 for the largest project. Total estimated cost for the twelve facilities in 2023 dollars is approximately \$6,058,913.

Regulated Public: The regulated public impacts are the same as those identified for political subdivisions because the cost of the wastewater treatment upgrades will, in some form, likely be passed along to ratepayers. During outreach, NDEE will attempt to quantify the fiscal impacts to ratepayers.