

Summary Information

The City of Lincoln Potable Water Treatment Plant (PWTP) at Ashland supplies the drinking water for the City of Lincoln, Nebraska from 44 groundwater wells. Treatment of the well water occurs in the East Plant and the West Plant and consists of oxidation, detention, rapid sand filtration and chlorination. Wastewater from the treatment process is generated from filter backwash, floor drains, and roof drains.

The Lincoln PWTP discharges wastewater into an unnamed tributary of Salt Creek in segment LP2-10000 of the Lower Platte River Basin. The beneficial uses of this segment of Salt Creek include aquatic life, agricultural water supply, recreation, aesthetics, and key species. Pollutants of concern that are present in the wastewater include total residual chlorine (TRC), suspended solids, dissolved iron, dissolved manganese, and pH.

Under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, any facility that discharges pollutants from a point source into Waters of the State is required to obtain an NPDES permit. When developing effluent limits for a NPDES permit, the NDEQ considers limits based on both the technology available to treat the pollutants (technology based effluent limits) and limits that are protective of the designated uses of the receiving water (water quality based effluent limits).

An NPDES permit, NE0111155, was drafted and public notice from February 19, 2011 to March 19, 2011 by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality for the City of Lincoln PWTP. The Department of Environmental Quality received a request for public hearing during the public notice period. The Director has granted this request based on regulations contained in NDEQ Title 119.

Limitations for TRC are included in the draft permit to protect the receiving stream from the discharge of toxic amounts of residual chlorine along with a three year compliance schedule to give the City of Lincoln sufficient time to design, construct, and operate a treatment system sufficient to meet final permit limits for TRC. A compliance schedule to give a permittee sufficient time to achieve water quality standards may be included in a permit in accordance with the requirements set forth in NDEQ Title 119, Chapter 16. The limitations in the draft permit are protective of the Clean Water Act § 101(a)(2) fishable/swimmable goals and will ensure the existing quality of water in the receiving stream is not lowered.

This schedule of compliance was added in response to comments from the earlier public notice and requires compliance as soon as possible, but not later than the applicable statutory deadline under the Clean Water Act in accordance with Title 119, Chapter 16 003.01

Regulations contained in the draft permit are based on the following:
NDEQ Title 117 – *Nebraska Surface Water Quality Standards* (Revised March 22, 2009),
NDEQ Title 119 – *Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Issuance of Permits Under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System* (Revised May 16, 2005).

NDEQ was granted NPDES permitting authority in 1972.