



October 31, 2019

Facility Operator,

**RE: Request that POTW Operators Respond to the National Nutrient Removal Questionnaire**

On October 22, 2019, the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") released the Phase 1 screener questionnaire of the *National Study of Nutrient Removal and Secondary Technologies: Publicly Owned Treatment Works*. The purpose of the study is to obtain nationwide data on nutrient removal to help set more realistic and achievable nutrient reductions, help POTWs understand the range of opportunities to optimize nutrient removals based on data from their peers, and encourage improved POTW nutrient removal performance with less expense.

This is a multi-phase effort and the first phase of the study is a screener questionnaire. The goal of this questionnaire is to identify and characterize the full population of POTWs in the country that discharge to a water of the United States. This information will be used to help establish a baseline of nutrient performance at the national level for all POTWs.

Iowa, along with several other states, has been coordinating with EPA and other stakeholder groups on the study and agree that this data and information would be helpful to utilities and regulators as they address nutrient removal. I encourage you to complete the screener questionnaire, as its success will be beneficial to POTWs in our state, nationwide, and all stakeholders involved in managing nutrients at the watershed level. You can find the survey at following website: <https://www.epa.gov/eg/potw-nutrient-survey>

Additionally, any Iowa wastewater operator that completes the survey and submits a copy of the EPA completion certificate will receive the 3 hours of continuing education credit. The EPA completion certificates should be emailed to Laurie Sharp for processing at [laurie.sharp@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:laurie.sharp@dnr.iowa.gov)

If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact Adam Schnieders at [adam.schnieders@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:adam.schnieders@dnr.iowa.gov) or 515.238.0551. Thank you in advance for your time and effort in completing the questionnaire.

Sincerely,

Kayla Lyon  
Director, Iowa Department of Natural Resources