

Chapter 15

Assessing the Water Quality Impacts of Phosphorus in Runoff from Agricultural Lands

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The excessive fertilization (eutrophication) of waterbodies is recognized as one of the major causes of the impairment of the beneficial uses of waters through the growth of excessive amounts of aquatic plants such as algae and water weeds. Agricultural land use has been found to be an important source of N and P compounds leading to excessive fertilization of some waterbodies. Increasing attention is being given to controlling the water quality impacts of nitrogen and phosphorus compounds in stormwater runoff and irrigation tailwater discharges from agricultural lands. The US EPA is developing numeric chemically based nutrient criteria which will lead to increased efforts to restrict the discharge/release of N and P compounds from agricultural lands. This paper presents a review of issues that should be considered in assessing/managing the impacts of phosphorus derived from agricultural land runoff on eutrophication-related water quality.

Reference as:

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