

Collect real-time nitrate data in Minnesota waters



Better data will help improve water quality in Minnesota and beyond.

Challenge

Measuring nitrate levels in Minnesota's rivers, lakes, and streams requires physically collecting samples and transporting them to a laboratory for analysis. This method is thorough but time-consuming, and limits the amount of monitoring MPCA conducts each year. The MPCA needs a more efficient way of gathering nitrate data to best inform restoration actions and protect communities and their drinking water supplies.

Why it's important

Nitrate levels are increasing in Minnesota's surface water and groundwater. High levels of nitrate are increasingly common in the southern half of the state and in some areas, contamination impacts both private and community drinking water systems. Continuous data collection will allow for more robust tracking and data sharing to inform future investments and improvements.

Proposal

\$2 million
General Fund

Governor Walz recommends an appropriation of \$2 million from the General Fund to install a nitrate-monitoring network consisting of 60-80 sensors in areas of southern Minnesota where nitrates are a pressing concern.



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