gas.) Waste biosolids clump together and settle to the bottom of a clarifier from which they are pumped to the facility's sludge lagoon for further underwater treatment that lasts over two years.

For a more complete overview of this complicated biological process, see http://www.nesc.wvu.edu/pdf/ ww/publications/pipline/pl_sp03.pdf and

http://www.barnstablecountyhealth.org/ia-systems/ information-center/compendium-of-information-onalternative-onsite-septic-system-technology/basics-ofwastewater-treatment

Total nitrogen loading is in the form of TKN or ammonia. The level of TN, which will be restricted by Reg 31.17 starting in 2022, is calculated by adding the TKN loading and ammonia loading in the wastewater that ows into the plant from the three owner districts. Total inorganic nitrogen is a separate figure, the sum of nitrates, nitrites, and ammonia. Total inorganic nitrogen is a required reporting item in both the monthly discharge monitoring report and the monthly Control Regulation 85

Burks also explained the different older processes used by the Phillips and Las Vegas wastewater treatment facilities of Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU.) Both the Phillips and Las Vegas facilities are located within the City of Colorado Springs, downstream of the two local wastewater treatment facilities, Tri-Lakes and Upper Monument Creek. Because CSU's equipment is older and less efficient, CSU will have to spend a very large amount of money just to match Tri-Lakes' existing nutrient removal capability.

All of the nitrogen data will be critical in future permit limit negotiations with the Water Quality Control Division because it is so technically challenging and expensive to meet the interim nitrogen limits in both Control Regulation 85 and Regulation 31.17. The nitrogen limits being demanded of Colorado by the EPA are unattainable with currently available wastewater treatment technology.

The very limited amount of assimilative capacity in Monument Creek that will be available for division among Tri-Lakes, Upper Monument Creek, Academy Water and Sanitation District, the Air Force Academy, and CSU under EPA's proposed restrictions will result in a very expensive and fierce competition between these county entities for how much total nitrogen each can discharge. A similar competition looms for the amount of total phosphorus each of these entities can discharge

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AF CURE update

Wicklund and Orcutt discussed the results of the July 1 Arkansas and Fountain Coalition for Rural/Urban River Evaluation (AF CURE) meeting. This new water quality monitoring group has created a coordinated nutrient monitoring program from Palmer Lake to south of Pueblo to meet the reporting requirements of the state Water Quality Control Commission's Control Regulation 85.

A website is being set up for AF CURE that will be similar to the website for the 13-year-old South Platte Coalition for Urban River Evaluation (SP CURE), which served as the model for the creation of AF CURE.

The Water Quality Control Division is about to impose new regulations creating restrictions on sedimentation. However, these new state sedimentation standards are very dependent on reference data from existing U.S. Geological Survey monitoring stations that are being collected for other programs.

Since there are only two monitoring stations east of I-25 in Colorado, the new regulations will not apply to wastewater treatment facilities east of I-25, with the exception of Colorado Springs Utilities, which pays for USGS monitoring facilities that already collect data along Monument Creek under contracts with USGS that are paid for by CSU. As a result, Tri-Lakes and Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility may be affected by the upcoming state sedimentation regulations.

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Burks said the plant receives an average of 2,922 pounds of suspended solids per day, but only discharges an average of 39 pounds per day. The new phosphate removal equipment will improve suspended solids removal. Chemical removal of nutrients is far more controllable

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