**START.** **Circa 2016, facilities are:**

1. Meeting standards (or have compliance schedule to do so)

2. Meeting General Variance (or have compliance schedule to do so)

3. Meeting individual Variance (or have compliance schedule to do so)

**3-Year Review**: For each category, DEQ evaluates if more cost-effective and efficient phosphorus and nitrogen removal technologies are available that can be applied at the statewide scale

*DEQ reviews the General Variance categories every 3 years*

Does 3-year review indicate there are more cost-effective & efficient nutrient-removal technologies for a category?

**NO** **YES**

Carry forward to next 3-year review

DEQ updates General Variance nutrient treatment level(s) for one or more categories.

**Am I required to meet the updated General Variance treatment levels? YES, UNLESS:**

1) It's too costly

2) Facility moves to a zero waste load allocation (non-discharge in summer)

3)Upstream assimilative capacity allows facility to remain at current treatment level because standard is met

4)Approved TMDL concluded that facility is an insignificant nutrient loading source

5) It can be shown, via Department-approved modeling or empirical data, that emphasizing reduction of one nutrient can achieve the same water quality/biological conditions in the receiving stream as equal reduction of both nutrients, and downstream uses are protected.

Apply for an Individual Variance

Variance no longer required

Remain at or Near the Previous General Variance Treatment Level for the Non-critical Nutrient. Discharger is not required to upgrade facility to the new General Variance level. Situation in the watershed must be monitored over time to see if statement 5 in previous box remains true. Reach-specific criteria may be in order.