Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How does a facility qualify for the program?

The facility will need an approved project mentor such as a TAUD or MTAS technical staff member, a private consultant, or an operator from an optimized sister plant and the support of the Division of Water Resources (DWR) Environmental Field Office (EFO) inspector.

Does TDEC provide technical assistance to TN POP?

At this time, TDEC is not able to provide technical assistance to TN POP participants, but DWR can assist in identifying potential mentors and will review and approve mentors.

What does the facility need to do to get started?

The facility will need to submit one (1) full calendar year of eMOR data prior to optimization as a baseline and continue to use eMOR during and after optimization. If the facility does not have an eMOR, DWR staff will set up facility specific eMOR and the mentor will provide support with reporting through eMOR. Facilities must provide DWR one (1) full calendar year of energy bills to TDEC and authorize TDEC to receive a copy of their energy bills during and after plant optimization. Using that information, TDEC or their partner will assist facilities in performing simple energy savings analyses and track energy usage during and after plant optimization.

How can operators get more knowledge about optimization techniques and operational changes?

To build and expand knowledge of optimization techniques and operational changes, facility operators will complete free training modules on the TNPOP website. Operators should complete required online and in-person training (including instrument use) as specified by the mentor and/or TDEC inspector to prepare to meet the optimization goals of the facility. Completion of the training should be documented by the mentor.

How can my facility share our success?

Upon optimization, serve as peer mentors for other operators in the TN POP program; assist in preparation of case studies, present at TNPOP summit, or host an “open house” tour of their plant.
What happens once we are admitted into the program?

Once admitted to the program, the initial site visit will be coordinated with the mentor and the DWR EFO inspector. During the initial site visit, facility operators and subject matter experts will develop an optimization and monitoring strategy. Facility operators will be encouraged to visit optimized sister plants. DWR staff will provide informed regulatory oversight, working with the facility if there are any problems due to the optimization. The facility will provide monthly updates to their mentor and DWR EFO inspector.

What kind of timeline can be expected?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage 1</th>
<th>Initial data preparation and visit with the mentor: eMOR setup and baseline data sent to DWR, energy setup and baseline data sent to DWR, nutrient and energy video training, and diagnostic instrument operation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stage 2</td>
<td>Initial DWR and mentor plant visit: monitoring strategy development, nutrient optimization strategy, energy efficiency strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 3</td>
<td>Periodic on-site visits with the mentor, weekly update calls with the mentor, and monthly reporting to DWR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 4</td>
<td>Final optimization report sent to DWR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What other resources are available?

Please see:
- Instrument Loan Program
- TN POP resource website
- Listserv of participating facilities
- Operator subject matter experts (SMEs) and sister plant visits
- Case studies