

Local Government Engagement and Communication during the Chesapeake Bay Midpoint Assessment and Phase III WIP Development (April 2016–December 2018)

Version 1, February 2017



2010
Chesapeake Bay TMDL established and Phase I WIPs submitted

2011–2012
Phase II WIPs submitted

April 2016
Phase III WIP development planning begins

December 2016
States report annual BMP progress; Launch BMP Verification Program

January 2017
EPA releases Interim Phase III WIP Expectations

Spring 2017
States finalize initial local engagement strategy; Water quality monitoring trends released; Milestone Evaluation complete

July 2017
States begin scenario runs

Fall 2017
Partnership finalizes modeling tools; Draft planning targets provided

October 2017
EPA finalizes Phase III WIP Expectations

November–December 2017
States present local engagement strategy to CBP leadership

December 2017
States develop local planning goals; Report annual BMP progress

December 2017
EPA finalizes Phase III WIP planning targets

January 2018
Two-year Milestones Due

Spring 2018
Midpoint Assessment complete

August 2018
Draft Phase III WIPs due to EPA

December 2018
Final Phase III WIPs due to EPA

December 2018
States report annual BMP progress

2025
100% of practices in place to meet Bay restoration goals set by TMDL

-  Key dates in Bay TMDL process
-  Key activities or information that needs to be communicated to local governments or others
-  Key activities requiring local government engagement
-  Guidance for Phase III WIP development released

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DEFINITIONS

Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) are created by each state and serve as a guide for meeting the pollution-reduction targets in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. Phase I WIPs, developed in 2010, describe actions the states need to take by 2017 and 2025. Phase II WIPs, developed by the states in 2012, build on the initial Phase I WIPs by identifying specific activities that need to be implemented locally. The Draft Phase III WIPs, due August 2018, will detail actions to be implemented between 2018 and 2025 to meet the Bay TMDL restoration goals. The final Phase III WIPs are due December 2018.

Two-year Milestones are short-term, two-year goals that states set for themselves to increase restoration work and ensure progress for the Bay cleanup targets. They also guide implementation by describing specific actions to be taken by the state or others during the next two-year period.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are restoration activities and projects (planned and implemented) to improve local water quality and meet pollution reduction targets established in the Bay TMDL.

Midpoint Assessment is the mid-term evaluation of overall progress toward the 2017 goal of having practices in place to meet 60 percent of the overall nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment reductions necessary to achieve the 2025 Bay TMDL goals.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model or “Model” is a suite of computer analysis models that is being enhanced. The revised Model, which informs the actions of those working to restore the Bay, will allow reporting of newly approved pollution-reduction practices. In addition, updated high-resolution land cover and land use data have been incorporated to more accurately represent what’s happening on the ground. The Model has been calibrated using almost three decades’ worth (1985 to 2013) of water quality monitoring data from a network of more than 200 monitoring stations (tidal and non-tidal) throughout the watershed.



The Chesapeake Bay Watershed spans 64,000 square miles and includes the District of Columbia and portions of New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia (commonly referred to as “Bay jurisdictions”).