



Chesapeake Bay TMDL: 2011 Model Updates & Phase II WIP Planning Targets

FACT SHEET



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

- On August 1, 2011 EPA announced Phase II WIP planning targets for reducing nitrogen (191.51 million pounds), phosphorus (14.55 million pounds), and sediment (7,341 million pounds) pollution to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its local waterways, as part of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.
- EPA is asking the Bay jurisdictions to use these planning targets, along with the December 2010 TMDL, when developing their Phase II WIPs. The Phase II WIPs are expected to provide the strategies necessary to have practices in place by 2017 that would result in 60 percent of the necessary nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment reductions needed by 2025 based on the 2010 final TMDL. EPA will use these planning targets when assessing 2-year milestone progress toward meeting the 2017 interim goal.
- This approach will build upon the work the jurisdictions have already committed to and begun to implement in their Phase I WIPs, and it represents the actions, assumptions, and “level of effort” necessary to meet the final allocations in the 2010 Bay TMDL.
- The Phase II WIP planning targets are the result of two changes that were requested by the Bay jurisdictions for the Chesapeake Bay Program Watershed Model.
 - In the spring of 2010, the jurisdictions asked EPA to refine the Watershed Model so as to better capture the total amount of urban and suburban developed land in the watershed, and
 - the effectiveness of management practices by farmers to control pollution on agricultural lands in the watershed.
- EPA arrived at these planning targets by running the proposed reduction strategies in the Phase I WIPs and any backstop allocations or adjustments necessary to meet the 2010 Bay TMDL, through the updated Watershed Model.
- It is important to note that there is a difference of approximately 2 to 3 percent watershed wide between the draft target allocations distributed to the jurisdictions on June 30, 2011 that meet applicable water quality standards and the Phase II WIP planning targets. EPA may modify the Bay TMDL in 2012 based on the Phase II WIPs, the two updates to the Watershed Model, or other considerations. Any modifications to the Bay TMDL would meet applicable water quality standards in the Bay and its tidal tributaries that are in place at that time.
- The Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership is committed to a flexible, transparent, and adaptive approach towards Bay restoration and will revisit these planning targets in 2017. The Partnership will also conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the TMDL and the suite of computer modeling tools in 2017.
- The 2017 Phase III WIPs are expected to address any needed modifications to ensure, by 2025, that actions are in place which would achieve full restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries to meet applicable water quality standards.