

An aerial photograph of a vast wetland landscape. A wide, winding river flows through the center, surrounded by lush green marshes and smaller, interconnected waterways. The terrain is flat, and the vegetation appears dense and healthy. The sky is not visible, focusing the viewer's attention on the natural environment.

# Chesapeake Bay Program Update

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# Overview

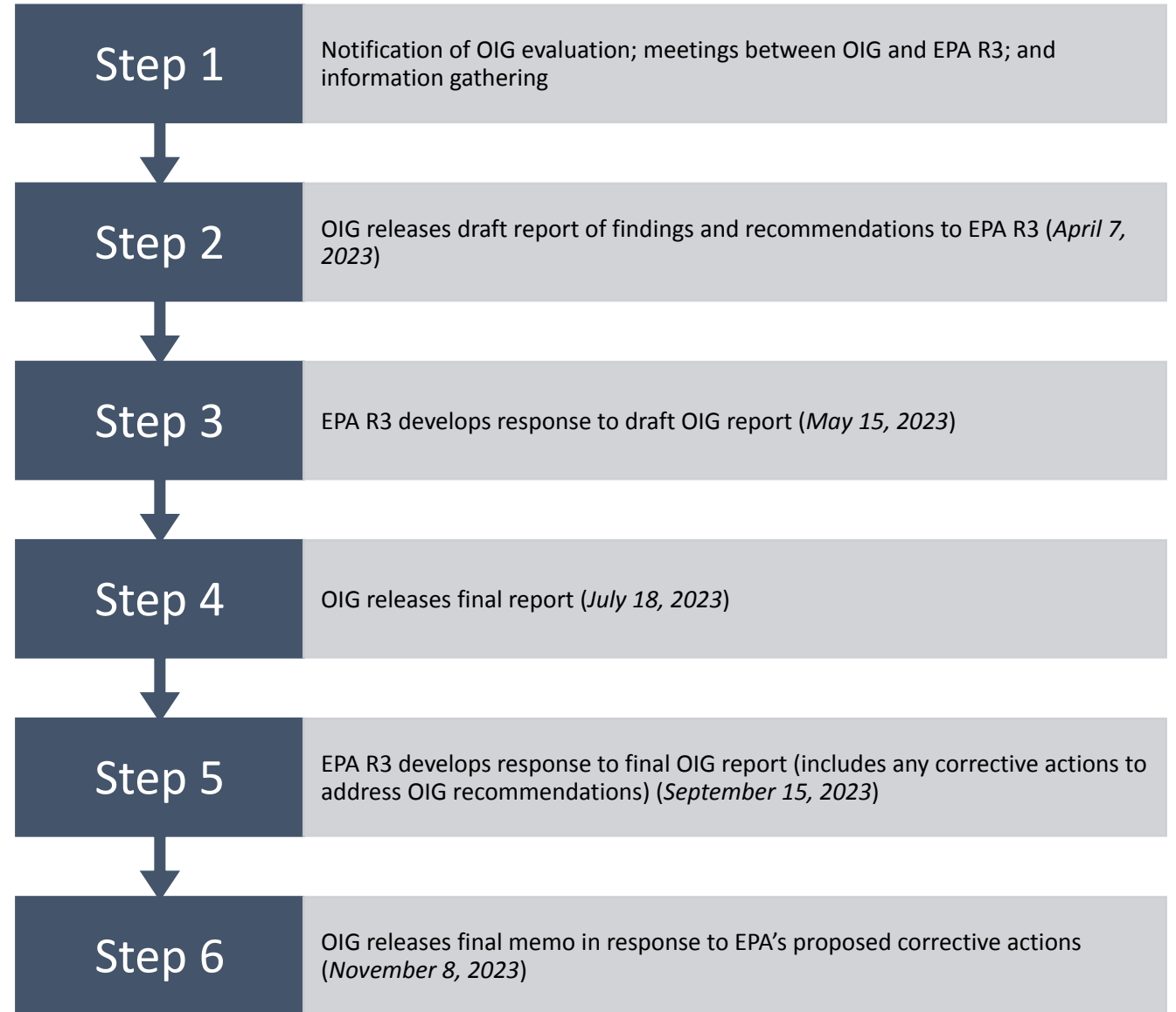
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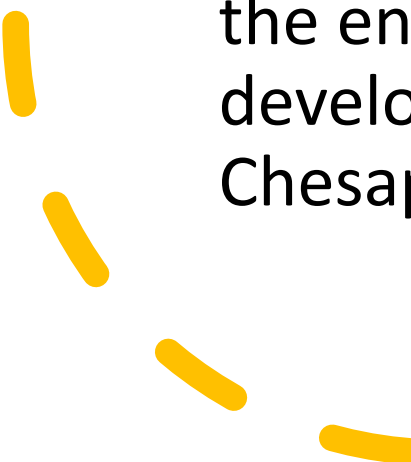
- IG Report
- Agriculture Advisory Committee
- Stakeholder Committee Recommendations to the Executive Council
- EPA Community Capacity Building Grant Program



# Why was IG evaluation conducted?


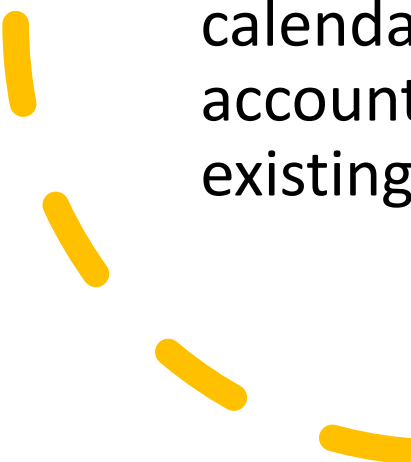
The Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted this evaluation to determine whether the EPA effectively uses its Accountability Framework for overseeing Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load pollution-reduction goals.


# Overarching Steps for this Evaluation



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- **OIG Recommendation 1:** Lead the Chesapeake Bay Program in developing a new strategy to specifically address nonpoint source pollution.
  - **EPA Region 3 Corrective Action:** EPA commits to make a motion to the CBP partnership's Management Board at a meeting held before the end of calendar year 2024, proposing that the partnership develop a strategy to address nonpoint sources of pollution in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

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- **OIG Recommendation 2:** Lead the Chesapeake Bay Program in setting new jurisdictional goals and a new deadline to have all pollution controls and practices in place to meet Total Maximum Daily Load pollutant-reduction goals.
  - **EPA Region 3 Corrective Action:** Complete. In October 2022, under EPA's leadership as Chair of the CBP partnership's Executive Council, the Council charged the CBP partnership's PSC with "recommending a critical path forward that prioritizes and outlines the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the Watershed Agreement leading up to and beyond 2025."

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- **OIG Recommendation 3:** Lead the Chesapeake Bay Program in developing an effective assurance mechanism to ensure that nonpoint source load reductions will be achieved by jurisdictions under the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load.
  - **EPA Region 3 Corrective Action:** The Region will make a motion to the CBP partnership's Management Board at a meeting held before the end of calendar year 2024 that the CBP partnership develop additional accountability measure(s) for nonpoint source reductions beyond the existing Accountability Framework and other public accountability tools.

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- OIG has accepted EPA Region 3 Corrective Actions to Recommendations 1 and 3.
  - OIG agrees that Recommendation 2 is resolved.

<https://www.epaoig.gov/>



# Agriculture Advisory Committee Update

- On July 28, 2023, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, on behalf of the six state agriculture department secretaries/commissioners, submitted a letter to EPA Regional Administrator Adam Ortiz recommending the creation of an Agricultural Advisory Committee.
- In September, the PSC agreed to support the pursuit of an EC Directive to establish an Agricultural Advisory Committee. The PSC informed the EC that it was developing such a proposal at the October 19 EC meeting.
- On December 8, the PSC will act to establish a formal Action Team and charge it to develop a comprehensive proposal for such a Committee.
- The Action Team's proposal will address key matters essential to a successful Advisory Committee: purpose, membership, by-laws, resources, leadership, operations, etc.
- Current schedule calls for a proposed EC Directive to be considered during the Fall 2024 EC Meeting.

# Stakeholder Committee Recommendations to the Executive Council - Status

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- Stakeholders' Committee October 3, 2023 Annual Recommendation Letter to the Executive Council has been broadly distributed amongst the PSC and Management Board
- A summary of those recommendations were thoughtfully shared at the October 19, 2023 Executive Council Meeting
- Members of the Management Board have already engaged on specific recommendations and a full response to all of the recommendations is underdevelopment.
- Draft response is slated for consideration at January 2024 Management Board Meeting

# 2022 Panel Discussion on Equitable Access to Grant Awards



## EPA Community Capacity Building Grant Program

**Goal:** To build the capacity of frontline organizations working collaboratively on community and watershed health goals

**Funding:** \$13 million over 4 years

**Outcome:** Increase the effectiveness of community and frontline organizations that protect and restore rivers and local watersheds by addressing organizational capacity needs that advance environmental and community goals within the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.

**Subawards:** Will support discrete organizational capacity and technical assistance activities in any area that makes an organization stronger, including but not limited to finance and fundraising, strategic planning, diversity, equity, inclusion and justice, grant management, program evaluation, collaboration, communications, and technology.

**Eligible Applicants:** Local governments, nonprofit organizations, and individuals in the Chesapeake Bay region



# Questions?