



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM OFFICE  
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 109  
Annapolis, Maryland

FEB 15 2012

Richard Eskin, Director  
Science Services Administration  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
1800 Washington Boulevard  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Dear Rich:

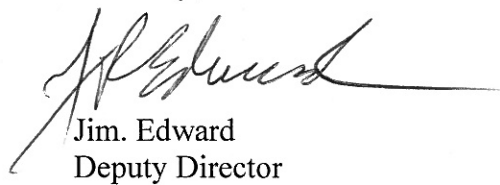
Thank you for the submission to EPA of Maryland's draft Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) and final 2012-2013 milestones. I greatly appreciate the efforts of you and your partners to develop these documents.

The Phase II WIP and 2012 – 2013 milestones are important elements in helping us meet the Chesapeake Bay Program Executive Council's goal of all practices in place by 2025 to meet water quality standards in the Chesapeake Bay. Through Maryland's Phase II WIP, you have met EPA's expectations for making key stakeholders aware of their role in cleaning up our region's waterways. The 2012-2013 milestones demonstrate that Maryland will take the necessary, near-term actions to achieve these long-term goals.

I am enclosing EPA's evaluation of your draft Phase II WIP and final, 2012-2013 milestones. This evaluation includes expected improvements for the Final Phase II WIP, as well as recommendations for additional 2012-2013 milestones. I appreciated the opportunity to discuss these findings last week and am pleased that you have already provided EPA with a schedule for reissuing Phase I and II MS4 permits. EPA's primary areas of focus for Maryland are ensuring that permits are in place and that the state has the necessary resources and technical assistance available for localities and soil conservation districts to meet the Bay TMDL allocations and fulfill Maryland's WIP and milestone commitments. Based on the strength of Maryland's draft Phase II WIP and 2012-2013 milestones, EPA intends to maintain ongoing oversight to ensure these commitments are fulfilled. In addition, my staff and I are committed to working with you to continue strengthening the Phase II WIPs and 2012-2013 milestones between now and March 30.

I look forward to our continued dialogue as we work toward a strong Phase II WIP and near-term milestones that will help achieve our shared goals for a restored Chesapeake Bay. Please let Mike Fritz or me know of any questions, and we will be in touch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Edward".

Jim. Edward  
Deputy Director

cc:

Jason Dubow

John Rhoderick

Brent McCloskey