

MILESTONE WORKGROUP
CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES
June 25, 2013, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS AND DECISIONS:

ACTION: Recommendation language will be distributed to Milestone workgroup following the call

DECISIONS:

1. The MSWG recommends to the WQGIT that if 2015 milestones submitted in January 2014 are posted to the TMDL website, they should be labeled as “draft”; include an explanation as to why they are considered draft; include a request to site visitors to check back again in spring 2014 for final 2015 Milestones. When the final 2015 milestones are posted to the TMDL website in spring 2014, the explanation and request to check back should be removed.
2. MSWG also recommends the following to the WQGIT: all jurisdictions should request a re-run of their latest input deck submission using the new 2015 land use base conditions available in April. The jurisdictions will have 30 days after the scenario results are provided to make adjustments to their input decks (if necessary) and to finalize their 2015 milestone loads and programmatic commitments.

MINUTES:

1. Welcome/Confirm Call Participants

Diane Davis, DC
Brittany Sturgis, DE
Helen Stewart, MD DNR
Greg Sandi, MDE
Paul Emmart, MDE
Robin Pellicano, MDE
Ben Sears, NY
Pat Buckley, PA DEP
Russ Baxter, VA DCR
James Davis-Martin, VA DCR
Peter Bouxsein, CBF
Nita Sylvester, EPA
Dianne McNally, EPA
Jeff Sweeney, EPA
Katherine Antos, EPA
Doreen Vetter, EPA
Chris Day, EPA
Peter Claggett, USGS
Matt Johnston, UMD
Emma Giese, CRC

2. Overview of How EPA will Evaluate 2015 Milestone Commitments

- Katherine Antos, EPA, discussed how EPA intends to evaluate 2015 programmatic and quantitative milestone commitments in order to help jurisdictions and federal agencies with the development of these commitments, and summarized the roles of the partnership, jurisdictions and EPA. Refer to: [Milestone Expectation Slides.pdf](#) and [Summary/Clarification of Jurisdictional, EPA & Partnership Roles Related to Milestones.pdf](#)
- Matt Johnston, WTWG Coordinator: Request that the Proposed Schedule for Milestone and Progress Submission (slide 6) be revised for WTWG as it was presented today.
- VA: What is the relationship between milestone targets and progress runs? Are they evaluated using the same conditions?
 - Antos: EPA agreed with the Milestone workgroup recommendation that if EPA intends to use progress runs to determine whether milestones have been met, the same base conditions should be used both to set and evaluate. Agree it makes sense for the 2015 commitments to be set using 2015 projected conditions, as the 2015 progress run will be run using 2015 conditions.
- VA: Why conduct progress runs?
 - Antos: Progress runs calculate if the actual reduction from BMPs implemented matches the commitment
- VA: Will 2015 base conditions as set next April remain unchanged until December of 2015?
 - Antos: CBPO has no intention of changing base conditions, unless a Partnership recommendation were provided to include additional datasets or a jurisdiction requested an update to the projections within its boundaries. The latter process currently happens each fall when the states have the opportunity to update their base conditions for that year based on the latest data (ie, permitting information).
 - VA: Noted the impact of evaluating the milestones on a different condition than on what they were set.
 - Antos: EPA does not believe that these “tweaks” to the projections in the fall of 2015 would have the same impact on the 2015 projections as the broader changes next spring resulting from the new Ag Census and NLCD data.
 - Sylvester: Clarified that any changes to the base conditions that would apply across states would be a Partnership decision through the WQGIT.
- Antos: EPA is intending to have one-on-one discussions with jurisdictions in the near future as part of regular oversight discussions outlining more specifically the programmatic and load reduction commitments for each source sector that EPA expects to see in the 2015 milestones based on review of WIPs.

3. Resolve Aspect 3 of Recommendation to the WQGIT on Setting 2015 Milestone Commitments

- Sylvester: The WQGIT supported aspects 1 and 2 of the Milestone workgroup recommendation, however had reservations regarding what should be posted on the TMDL website and when related to the jurisdictions' 2015 Milestone submissions. Refer to: [Background: MSWG Recommendation and WQGIT response.pdf](#)
- Antos: One of the roles of EPA is to be transparent, which is in part achieved by posting information online. However, EPA will take recommendations from the partnership when deciding what to post on its website.
- VA: Recommend using the labels “draft” and “final” when posting milestone submissions, with the note that the jurisdictions will have the opportunity to revise the posted milestones, and then to remove the revision language when the Milestones become final.
 - DC: agree
 - MD: agree
 - PA: agree
 - DE: agree
 - CBF: agree
 - NY: agree
- VA: Note that labeling the milestones as “draft” and “final” is transparent and understandable to the public.
 - EPA: EPA has not yet made a final decision about labeling of draft and final. EPA’s previous recommendation to remove “draft” and “final” labeling was before the option of 2015 milestone revision had come up.
- VA: Clarified that VA’s support of posting Milestones is dependent on them being labeled “draft” and “final”. VA does not support posting Milestones without a label.
- VA: Recommend that all jurisdictions milestones be run on the same base conditions
 - Antos: EPA cannot make the decision to rerun 2015 milestones for the jurisdictions; however the goal team and workgroups can make this recommendation to the jurisdictions.
 - VA: Recommends that all jurisdictions should request a re-run of their January input deck submission using the new 2015 land use base conditions available in April, so that the milestones set for 2015 will be set in the same base conditions as they will be evaluated on
 - PA: agree
 - MD: agree
 - DC: agree
 - DE: agree
 - NY: agree
- VA: WQGIT discussed allowing the jurisdictions 30 days to make adjustments after receiving new land use conditions next spring. Request to see the

previously submitted January milestones run on the new base conditions, and to have 30 days after that point to revise.

- Sylvester: That can be done