**Notes from the Milestone workgroup conference call 11/5/12**

Note that baseline conditions for a year represent the land use, animal numbers and septic systems in that year.

**How to evaluate the 2012-2013 milestones** which were developed with 2010 baseline conditions (as was decided by the GIT, used in the TMDL and in the 2017 and 2025 targets).

1. 2012-2013 milestones were developed using 2010 baseline conditions and should be evaluated in 2010 baseline conditions. This evaluation will be used for EPA evaluation and public materials. (PA, DE)
2. 2012-2013 milestones were developed using 2010 baseline conditions and should be evaluated in 2010 baseline conditions. EPA evaluation can be based on the 2010 conditions, but for public materials jurisdictions will use progress run results which are evaluated using projected current year conditions. (VA)
   * Jurisdictions want to be able to provide more up to date land use information if they have it available. (WV, DE, NY, VA)
3. Use 2013 progress run, which is run on 2013 projected conditions, to evaluate whether states met 2013 milestone commitments (EPA). This 2013 progress run on 2013 conditions will be used by EPA for evaluation and for public materials. (EPA).
   * Added post-call based on follow-up conversation w/ NY USC.
   * For informational purposes, EPA could run 2012-2013 milestone commitments on 2013 projected for comparison to 2013 progress run, which is based on 2013 conditions.
   * Jurisdictions want to be able to provide more up to date land use information if they have it available. (WV, DE, NY, VA)

**Future Milestones and how they should be evaluated**

1. Stick with using 2010 baseline conditions thru 2017 for all milestones thru 2017. (DE, VA, PA, WV, NY)
2. Future milestones should be evaluated using the projected conditions. So 2014-2015 milestones should be developed and evaluated using 2015 projected conditions and 2016-2017 should be developed and evaluated using 2017 projected conditions. (MD, EPA & NY- USC[[1]](#footnote-1))
   1. Projected conditions will be updated to reflect more accurate data from the 2012 Ag census. This updated data should be available in 2014.
3. Use the progress run data and compare progress to a trajectory line drawn from the TMDL to 2017 to determine if a jurisdiction is on track. (PA)

**Overall Milestone Evaluation Comments**

1. Jurisdictions should only be held accountable to the management actions presented in the input deck and not accountable for changes in land use. This method does not account for growth which was one of the key aspects in WIP development. A jurisdiction could “meet” the milestone target, but result in smaller pollutant reductions to the Bay as a result of growth and vice versa. (MD)
2. Milestones should be measured in the same baseline conditions as they are developed. (VA)
3. If states have more current land use available that data should be accounted for in the milestone/progress run as long as it does not undermine the calibration of the model. States should be able to provide this information on a yearly basis. (WV, DE, NY)

**Points to Consider**

1. Confusion in messaging with multiple “progress and milestone” runs in the model. Which are used to evaluate progress? Which run is used to share with the public?
2. What information do jurisdictions want to use for sharing progress with the public/EC?
   * At least one jurisdiction agrees that progress runs (as currently run) should be used for public information documents.
3. How would “Overall Comments” #1 allow jurisdictions to adjust the BMPs that they actually implement (e.g., if they do less cover crops and more buffers, how would we communicate to the public whether these actions evened out)?
4. EPA evaluates milestones based on a number of factors, including whether jurisdictions fulfilled programmatic commitments, whether they met numeric commitments, and if they were off then by how much, in what sectors, and why. Based on this, EPA will use its discretion to determine whether any federal actions are necessary.

**Call Participants:**

DC – Not present

DE – Jen Walls DNREC, Bryan Hall DNREC

MD – Jim George MDE, Greg Sandi MDE

NY – Ben Sears NYDEC, Aaron Ristow Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC)

PA – Pat Buckley PADEP

VA – James Davis-Martin VA DCR, Russ Baxter VA DEQ

WV – Teresa Koon WV DEP, Alana Hartman WV DEP

Chesapeake Bay Commission – Bevin Buchheister

EPA – Suzanne Trevena, Jeff Sweeney, Carin Bisland, Katherine Antos, Lucinda Power, Ruth Izraeli, Nita Sylvester, Megan Thygne, Doreen Vetter

1. Based on a call with NY USC after the Milestone Workgroup Conference Call. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)