

Proposed Scope of Work for the Boat Pump-Out and NDZ Task Force

Prepared by the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership's Wastewater Treatment Workgroup

Background

In February, 2015, the Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP) Wastewater Treatment Workgroup (WWTWG) was asked to consider Boat Pump-Out Facilities within No Discharge Zones (NDZ) as a BMP eligible for nutrient reduction credit within the Phase 6.0 Watershed Model. The proposal recommended the reductions be based upon direct monitoring of nitrogen and phosphorus removal at the pump-out facilities from Type I and II Marine Sanitation Devices (MSD) (treat and release systems), which would be reported to CBP by the jurisdictions on an annual basis. While the WWTWG was comfortable with the proposed approach of providing credit based upon directly monitored reductions, there were several outstanding regulatory and modeling issues that workgroup members felt required further evaluation. To evaluate the regulatory and modeling implications of the proposed BMP, the WWTWG has recommended the formation of a Boat Pump-Out and NDZ Task Force.

Task Force Scope of Work

The general scope of work for the Boat Pump-Out and NDZ Task Force will be to develop a report that evaluates, defines and configures the proposed Boat Pump-Out Facility in a No Discharge Zone BMP for nutrient reduction credit within the Chesapeake Bay Program's Phase 6.0 Watershed Model. The task force will evaluate the policy and regulatory implications of providing credit for the practice, and provide a recommended methodology for reporting and modeling the reductions.

The task force will work with the Wastewater Treatment Workgroup, Modeling Workgroup (MWG), and Watershed Technical Workgroup (WTWG) to develop their report.

Specifically, the Wastewater Treatment Workgroup recommends the following charges associated with tasks for the Boat Pump-Out and NDZ Task Force:

1. Identify any regulatory constraints associated with providing nutrient reduction credit for Boat Pump-Out from Type I and II MSD within No-Discharge Zones, and provide a recommendation as to whether or not to credit the practice in the Phase 6.0 Watershed Model given the identified constraints.

If following completion of the first charge, the recommendation is to provide nutrient reduction credit in the Phase 6.0 Watershed Model, the Task Force is further charged with the following tasks:

2. Define the baseline load against which the nutrient reductions from Boat Pump-Out Facilities would be credited. If a new source load must be established, the task force should define the new nutrient loading source for the model and provide a methodology for establishing the baseline/historical loads for this new source.
3. Develop the procedures for tracking, reporting and verifying the recommended credits.
4. Document any data needs for supporting future revisions to the recommended reduction credits.
5. Critically analyze any unintended consequences associated with the methodology and any potential for double or over-counting of nutrient reduction credit.

Timeline and Deliverables

The Task Force project timeline for the development of recommendations is based on the Phase 6.0 model development schedule. This timeline includes the development of a provisional recommendation for this potential BMP and new source load prior to the finalization of a fully documented recommendation report and methodology. Provisional Task Force recommendations will be used only for initial Phase 6.0 model development and calibration, and not for future implementation progress reporting by the jurisdictions.

- Mid-August 2015 – Task Force scope of work and membership are approved by the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT).
- Late-August 2015 – Task Force kickoff meeting.
- Prior to October 1, 2015 – If possible, Task Force should provide a provisional recommendation to the CBPO modeling team on whether or not to include a new load in the Phase 6.0 Watershed Model. This load would be the baseline against which the nutrient reductions from the potential BMP would be credited.
- October 1, 2015 – All draft model inputs are delivered to the Watershed Model by the Scenario Builder team for the final Phase 6.0 model calibration run.
- March 1, 2016 – **Final date** for all final model inputs and Task Force to release full recommendations for approval by the WWTWG, WTWG, and WQGIT.
- Early summer 2016 – If approved by the CBP partnership, Task Force recommendations are final and will be included in the final version of the Phase 6.0 modeling tools.