

Phase 6 Approval Process

Background

The CBP partnership has built the 2017 modeling tools over the past half-decade through a multitude of decisions made by the PSC, the WQGIT and its sub-groups, and the Modeling Workgroup of STAR. The draft Phase 6 model represents the work of hundreds of partners on these groups, in expert panels, and through other modes of participation. The review has been ongoing since 2012, with detailed, intensive effort during 2016. Additionally, STAC has reviewed the Phase 6 watershed model and a draft report has been supplied to the CBP modeling team.

According to the [PSC-Approved Schedule from 5/26/16](#), calibration of the draft Phase 6 model is to occur from January-March, 2017 with final release of the Phase 6 model in June. This allows release of draft Phase III planning targets in June, working toward release of final planning targets in December 2017. The partnership has requested a fatal flaw review of the draft Phase 6 watershed model. The approval of the fatal-flaw process will occur in March with the review occurring in April and May.

On April 3rd, the CBP partnership will be supplied with documentation and load tables from the watershed model, access to the online version CAST, access to model inputs through a Tableau web page, and model calibration results. Scenarios will follow by mid-April. This schedule is dependent on all partnership data and decisions being supplied to the CBPO by December 31st, 2016.

Fatal Flaw Review

A fatal flaw, as defined below, may be the basis for the implementation of changes to the draft Phase 6 model. A **significant** impediment of the ability of the partnership to establish reasonable planning targets or evaluate progress toward achieving the planning targets due to:

- A calculation or method that does not follow the documented final decisions of the CBP partnership subject to established deadlines.
- The omission of data submitted by the CBP partnership subject to established deadlines.
- The overall failure of the model to match observed flows and loads when compared to the level of performance in previous models.

Disagreement with a final decision that has been made by the partnership, a scientific or technical method or product in favor of another method or product, or with a planning target are not fatal flaws. A failure to match loads for particular monitoring stations or constituents is also not a fatal flaw.

Comments submitted to the Modeling Workgroup or the WQGIT will be evaluated by the CBPO modeling team and then discussed in the appropriate CBP group. Comments may or may not result in changes based on the decision of those groups or the Management Board.

Schedule

During April and May, review will be ongoing with the potential for changes to be made. The Modeling Workgroup, the Water Quality GIT, the Management Board, and the Principals' Staff Committee will all meet in June for final approval of the suite of models to be used for the 2017 Midpoint Assessment.