

Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership Milestone Workgroup's recommendation to the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) for consideration: Elimination of CBP partnership's two-year water quality numeric milestones under the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load Accountability Framework

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a significant driver for state planning • Annual progress evaluation is a better data source for planning for the next 2-year cycle • Most states do not control what Best Management Practices (BMPs) are installed. However, smaller states have more control. • Local entities (e.g., counties or private property owners) ultimately decide which BMPs are installed. Therefore, states can only make an estimate of what the counties will do. Local entities are not required to develop 2-year plans. • Because states have no control over what is implemented, sometimes this effort becomes a paperwork exercise to meet a target. • States have other internal mechanisms for setting goals (e.g., MD has a financial assurance planning program for their MS4s). • Will not impact ability to get commitments from federal agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No short-term accountability or commitment to demonstrate remaining on pace to achieve the 2025 goals • Not consistent with the 2008 Executive Council commitment • Not consistent with the current WQGIT Management Strategy which anticipates both numeric and programmatic 2-year milestone development. • May not be consistent with the Federal Executive Order (EO) Strategy. However, EO strategy does not specify a commitment for numeric milestones, only "milestones". Therefore, having programmatic milestones will meet their commitments. • Two-year numeric commitments allow flexibility in proposing short-term changes in implementation since states may not expect progress to be even year-to-year.

- Decision on numeric milestones to address climate change reductions post-2022 will be discussed separately
- Decision on numeric milestones for Conowingo will be handled separately