

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Submission of Bay Jurisdiction Draft 2014-2015 Milestones

DATE: November 25, 2013

FROM: Nicholas DiPasquale, Director
Chesapeake Bay Program Office, EPA Region III

TO: Chesapeake Bay Program Management Board Members

A number of Bay jurisdictions have asked specific questions about and requested clarification on EPA's expectations for the 2014-2015 milestones. Through this memorandum, EPA seeks to clearly outline the expectations for the submittal of the draft water quality two-year milestones for Bay watershed jurisdictions set forth in the Guide to Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Two-year Milestones distributed on July 6, 2011¹ and subsequent updates to the Guide, such as the revised schedule in Attachment 1. This memo discusses both load reduction milestones and programmatic milestones. Milestones specific to federal facility implementation are due to jurisdictions by December 1, 2013 per the memo I shared on September 10, 2013. Draft water quality milestones for Bay watershed jurisdictions are due January 15, 2014. Jurisdictions may choose to submit revised 2014-2015 milestone input decks and programmatic milestones based on the 2013 progress scenario results by March 15, 2014 or the following business day. The final submission for both input decks and programmatic milestones is May 15, 2014.

Load Reduction Milestones to be Submitted Using the Provided Templates

Jurisdictions and federal agencies are encouraged to use the Chesapeake Assessment and Scenario Tool (CAST) or any state specific variation, to develop Best Management Practice (BMP) input decks for all sources, except wastewater. CAST outputs are in the appropriate format for analysis by the Chesapeake Bay Program modeling tools. If unable to use CAST, EPA expects BMP implementation milestones for the model assessment to be submitted using the attached templates provided with this memo. Attachment 2 provides the format for the draft input deck, which includes all of the planned BMP implementation levels for the next two years, except for WWTP practices. The draft input deck is in the same format that was used by Bay watershed jurisdictions for the Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) submissions. Instructions for these spreadsheets are included in attachment 2a. Attachment 3 is the spreadsheet to provide the projected flows and concentrations in 2015 from wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) and the planned reductions and/or eliminations of combined sewers for 2014-2015.

¹ USEPA (2011), *Guide for Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Two-year Milestones*, July 6, accessed at <http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/pdf/pdf_chesbay/2year_milestoneguidecomments70611.pdf>

Jurisdictions Need to Submit Input Decks Reflecting Planned BMPs

An input deck provides what types of BMPs are anticipated to be implemented, the amount of each BMP and associated units, the types of land uses or animals the BMPs apply to, and where the BMP will be located. Through the input deck template, jurisdictions can identify BMP locations by the state (broadest scale), major basin, river segment, county or land segment, or land-river segment (most specific scale). The Chesapeake Bay Program's modeling tools will automatically distribute BMPs submitted at broader scales to more specific land-river segments. The BMP implementation levels should result in load reduction levels consistent with the pace of reductions projected for tracking toward the TMDL which utilized the Phase II WIPs. EPA will work with each of the Bay watershed jurisdictions between the draft submission date and the final submission to determine the level of reductions expected for the 2014-2015 milestones.

Jurisdictions can Use Placeholder BMPs within 2-Year Milestone Commitments

Bay watershed jurisdictions can include placeholder BMPs and receive credit for practices not yet approved by the Partnership for use in the Chesapeake Bay models in their two-year milestone planning commitments. Bay watershed jurisdictions may also use placeholder BMPs that have been included in CAST and CAST variations, to estimate the load reductions achieved from implementing those practices. However, interim placeholder practices need to be vetted through the Chesapeake Bay Program protocol² prior to being reported in annual progress runs as actual implementation progress.

Contacts for Questions About Input Deck Submissions

All input deck spreadsheets containing WWTP and CSO information and any related questions should be submitted to Ning Zhou. Input decks for all other sources, e.g. CAFOs and MS4s, and related questions should be submitted to Jeff Sweeney and Matt Johnston. All contact information is provided in Attachment 4.

Expectation for Submission of Programmatic Milestones

In addition to the input deck submission, EPA expects to see programmatic water quality milestones where Bay watershed jurisdictions have identified that new programs (including regulations, guidance or legislation), or significant changes in programs are needed to support the pace of actions presented in the Phase I and/or Phase II WIP and in the 2014-2015 milestone input deck. The programmatic water quality milestones should reflect a major

² USEPA (2010) *Protocol for Development, Review and Approval of Loading Effectiveness Estimates for Nutrient and Sediment Controls in the Chesapeake Bay Model*. Mar 15, accessed at <http://archive.chesapeakebay.net/pubs/Nutrient-Sediment_Control_Review_Protocol.pdf>

deliverable, such as the hiring of additional program staff or the proposal of a rulemaking process. Milestones are measurable tools for tracking progress towards the goal of implementing practices to achieve 60% of the pollution reductions allocated to the Bay watershed jurisdiction in the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) by 2017 and 100% by 2025. Attachment 5 provides a standardized format for programmatic milestones. This format includes a section for a Bay watershed jurisdiction to cite the WIP page or section for reference or further detail. Bay watershed jurisdictions should also consider linking the milestone BMPs from the input decks to their WIPs in the template for programmatic milestone commitments.

Programmatic milestones should be submitted in the Word document provided and these should be submitted to the respective EPA WIP Team Jurisdictional lead (Attachment 4) with a copy to Suzanne Trevena, Katherine Antos, and Lucinda Power.

cc: CBP WQGIT Milestones Workgroup Members

Attachment 1 – Milestone schedule for 2014-15 submissions
Attachment 2 – Scenario Builder Template
Attachment 2a – Scenario Builder Template Instructions
Attachment 3 – WWTP/CSO Input Template
Attachment 4 – WIP Contact List
Attachment 5 – Programmatic Milestone Template