

Toxic Contaminants Mitigation Outcome

Water Quality GIT

Toxic Contaminants Workgroup

Presenter: Keith Bollt, EPA

PROPOSED DRAFT OUTCOME LANGUAGE:

An increased understanding by CBP toxic contaminants reduction practitioners of the impacts of and mitigation options for toxic contaminants such as PCBS, plastics and microplastics, mercury, and PFAS, in order to increase their capacity to reduce the amount and effect of these materials on the people, living resources, lands and waters of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

EXISTING 2014 AGREEMENT OUTCOME LANGUAGE:

- Current Toxic Contaminants Research Outcome: Continually increase our understanding of the impacts and mitigation options for toxic contaminants. Develop a research agenda and further characterize the occurrence, concentrations, sources and effects of mercury, PCBs and other contaminants of emerging and widespread concern. In addition, identify which best management practices might provide multiple benefits of reducing nutrient and sediment pollution as well as toxic contaminants in waterways.
- Current Toxic Contaminants Policy & Prevention Outcome: Continually improve practices and controls that reduce and prevent the effects of toxic contaminants below levels that harm aquatic systems and humans. Build on existing programs to reduce the amount and effects of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the Bay and watershed. Use research findings to evaluate the implementation of additional policies, programs and practices for other contaminants that need to be further reduced or eliminated.

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PROPOSED TARGET

A common information sharing agenda among toxic contaminants reduction practitioners, and between practitioners and scientists, on toxic contaminants science, policy, management and communication lessons learned and best practices.

**New Target /
Update of
Existing
Target**

Updating
of existing

**Date
estimate for
target being
developed**

At regular
WG
meetings

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- The draft outcome language is based on MB feedback from the March MB meetings:
 - The Bay Program partnership is best suited to be a convenor of practitioners rather than the place where toxics are directly reduced (SMT without A&R)

Topics for conversation:

- Is the MB comfortable with the tradeoffs of this proposal?
 - CWA § 117 and the 2014 Agreement direct “reducing or eliminating” toxic contaminants
 - This proposed language is based on TCW’s current resources and added value
 - An alternative is to reassess the role and function of the TCW.
- Resources for indicators?
- Thoughts on name?
- What goal team?
- PPAT?
- Priorities for topics & environmental media?
- More member engagement & ownership/open chair positions