

Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership's Basinwide BMP Verification Framework Briefing

**CBP Partnership's Citizens Advisory Committee
May 15, 2014**

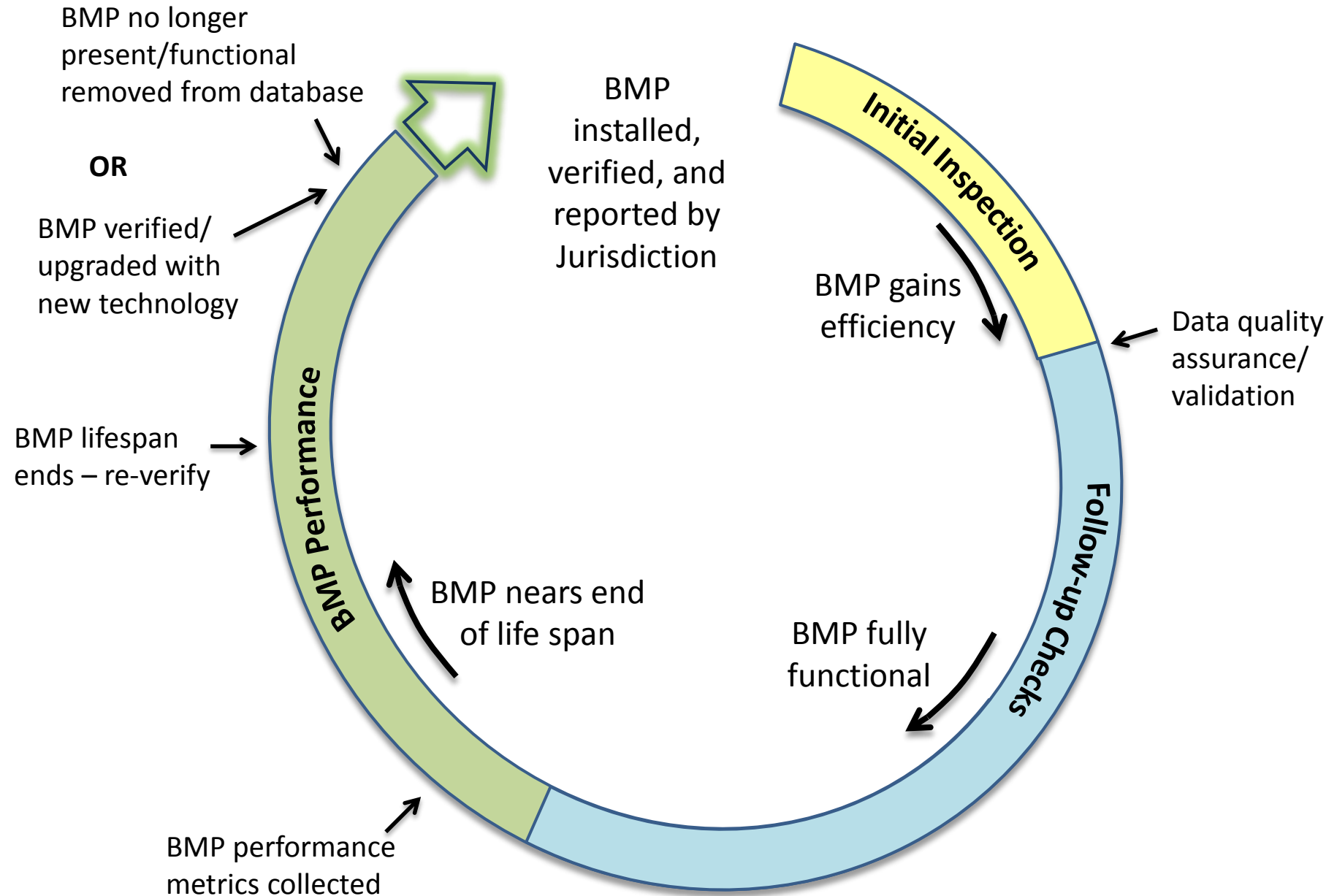


Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

Verification Definition

“Verification: the process through which agency partners ensure practices, treatments, and technologies resulting in reductions of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollutant loads are implemented and operating correctly.”

BMP Verification Life Cycle



CAC Concerns Raised

- Fundamentally change the way we do business
- Strengthen EPA's role in providing guidance, direction, feedback
- Who will determine sufficiency of proposed verification protocols
- Final decision maker must be EPA
- EPA to provide explicit implementation guidance
- There is not sufficient transparency
- Establish relational levels of credit with a “sliding scale” approach
- Use the findings of the BMP Verification Review Panel
- The status quo is unacceptable
- Different level of credit for different levels of verification
- Self certification is not credible—doesn't address reasonable assurance
- Process for transparency must be clearly explained
- Solve double counting of existing practices problem
- Ag Workgroup's approach to verification is complex, confusing

CAC Concerns Raised

- Insufficient funding can't be an excuse for lack of verification
- Implementation should include verification
- Targeting of funding to critical areas should be employed
- Target the most important practices
- Ensure same level of transparency across source sectors
- CAC supports creation of workgroup focus on verifying nutrient management plans
- Require review of aggregate data by third party
- Public should be able to under any verification protocol

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Jurisdictional Verification Protocol Design Table

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Evaluation and Oversight

- Amend Partnership BMP protocol to address verification
- Amend CBP Grant Guidance
- Annual reviews of progress data submissions
- Annual EPA reviews of quality assurance plans
- Periodic EPA audits of jurisdictions' BMP verification programs
- Independent evaluations by the Partnership's advisory committees

BMP Verification Framework Implementation Timeline

- All seven jurisdictions will develop/further enhance their BMP tracking, verification and reporting programs to be consistent with basinwide BMP verification framework
- Fully document their BMP tracking, verification and reporting programs within their existing CBIG required QA plan
- The BMP Verification Review Panel will review each jurisdiction's quality assurance plan, assessing the strengths and any possible vulnerabilities

BMP Verification Framework Implementation Timeline

- The BMP Verification Review Panel meets with each jurisdiction to discuss their respective BMP tracking, verification and reporting programs, working to identify and address any discrepancies between the jurisdiction's proposed verification program and the Partnership's basinwide verification framework
- The jurisdictions will be given the opportunity to respond to the Panel's findings

BMP Verification Framework Implementation Timeline

- The BMP Verification Review Panel will provide written feedback and recommendations to the BMP Verification Committee on each jurisdiction's program
- The BMP Verification Review Panel will report its findings and recommendations to the PSC
- EPA will approve each jurisdiction's BMP verification program or request specific enhancements to address the Panel's findings and recommendation prior to approval (EPA is actually approving their CBIG QA plans)

BMP Verification Framework Implementation Timeline

- Use first two years to ramp-up jurisdictions' verification programs
- Only verified practices will be credited after the initial two year ramp-up period

BMP Verification Schedule

- **May 9:** Distribute revised framework report
- **May 15:** Brief the Citizens Advisory Committee
- **June 5:** Brief the Local Governments Advisory Committee
- **June 9:** Brief the WQ Goal Implementation Team
- **June 17:** Brief the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
- **June TBD:** Brief the Habitat, Fisheries, Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Teams
- **July TBD:** BMP Verification Committee meeting to address feedback from GITs and advisory committees
- **July 15:** Revise the draft framework document
- **Aug 1:** Distribute final draft framework document
- **Sept:** Present to Management Board
- **October:** Seek final approval from Principals' Staff Committee