

Chesapeake Bay Boat Pump-Out BMP Expert Review Panel Charge

The main charge for the Panel is to develop a report that evaluates, defines and configures the proposed Boat Pump-Out Facility BMP for nutrient reduction credit within the Chesapeake Bay Program's Phase 6.0 Watershed Model. The Panel will evaluate the policy and regulatory implications of providing credit for the pump-out practice, and provide a recommended methodology for reporting and modeling the reductions.

In February, 2015, the Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP) Wastewater Treatment Workgroup (WWTWG) was asked to consider Boat Pump-Out Facilities within No Discharge Zones (NDZ) as a BMP eligible for nutrient reduction credit within the Phase 6.0 Watershed Model. The proposal recommended the reductions be based upon direct monitoring of nitrogen and phosphorus removal at the pump-out facilities from Type I and II Marine Sanitation Devices (MSD) (treat and release systems), which would be reported to CBP by the jurisdictions on an annual basis. While the WWTWG was comfortable with the proposed approach of providing credit based upon directly monitored reductions, there were several outstanding regulatory and modeling issues that workgroup members felt required further evaluation. The workgroup also requested that the scope of evaluation should also be expanded to cover all pump-outs, not just within NDZ.

The Panel is specifically requested to:

1. Identify any regulatory constraints associated with providing nutrient reduction credit for Boat Pump-Out from Type I and II MSD within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and provide a recommendation as to whether or not to credit the practice in the Phase 6.0 Watershed Model given the identified constraints.

If following completion of the first charge, the recommendation is to provide nutrient reduction credit in the Phase 6.0 Watershed Model, the Panel is further charged with the following tasks:

2. Define the baseline load against which the nutrient reductions from Boat Pump-Out Facilities would be credited. If a new source load must be established, the Panel should define the new nutrient loading source for the model and provide a methodology for establishing the baseline/historical loads for this new source.
3. Develop the procedures for tracking, reporting and verifying the recommended credits.
4. Document any data needs for supporting future revisions to the recommended reduction credits.
5. Critically analyze any unintended consequences associated with the methodology and any potential for double or over-counting of nutrient reduction credit.

The Panel will work with the Wastewater Treatment Workgroup, Modeling Workgroup (MWG), and Watershed Technical Workgroup (WTWG) to develop their report.

Specific charge points can be amended by recommendation of the Panel with concurrence of the CBPO lead. Throughout the process, detailed records need to be kept. In addition, panelists should follow the *Protocol for the Development, Review, and Approval of Loading and Effectiveness Estimates for Nutrient and Sediment Controls in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model*.