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Backgrounder

Toxics 2000 Strategy – Executive Summary

In the *Chesapeake 2000* Bay Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program signatories have recommitted to the following goal:

"A Chesapeake Bay free of toxics by reducing or eliminating the input of chemical contaminants from all controllable sources to levels that result in no toxic or bioaccumulative impact on the living resources that inhabit the Bay or on human health."

The Bay Program's *Toxics 2000 Strategy* is a watershedwide plan to achieve this goal. The Strategy targets chemicals that pose a risk to the Bay's living resources and human health, geographic areas where chemical contaminants are a problem, and areas at risk for becoming impacted.

To achieve this goal, the Chesapeake Bay Program partners commit to voluntary efforts that go beyond compliance with existing federal and state programs in hopes of avoiding costly regulations and cleanup in the future. The Bay Program partners will implement a four-pronged approach: taking restoration, protection and prevention actions; addressing point sources; addressing nonpoint sources; and conducting monitoring, assessments and research. *The Toxics 2000 Strategy* also discusses how to sustain progress and to ensure long-term success.

Taking Restoration, Protection and Prevention Actions _____

The Bay Program partners commit to restore impacted areas and areas at risk, and protect those rivers not currently at risk to ensure that they remain clean of chemical contaminants for future generations.

- By 2002, develop and start implementing plans for cleaning up contaminated sediment in the *Regions of Concern* (Baltimore Harbor, Anacostia River and Elizabeth River), by selecting target locations and finding appropriate technologies.
- Implement strategies to prevent and reduce the amount of chemical contaminants responsible for the fish consumption advisories from entering the Bay, and ensure that fish tissue monitoring and public outreach programs are accurate, understandable and easily available to the public.

Addressing Point Sources _____

Although point sources are subject to regulatory controls, the Bay program partners have committed to additional voluntary steps to further reduce and prevent point source contaminants from entering the Bay. In the *Chesapeake 2000* Bay agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program commits to strive for the zero release of chemical contaminants for point sources, including air sources.

- By 2010, phase out mixing zones for persistent or bioaccumulative chemical contaminants through pollution prevention and other voluntary measures. An initial emphasis shall be placed on phasing out mixing zones in impacted areas and areas at risk.
- By 2005, reduce by at least 20% the 1998 Toxics Release Inventory chemical releases and off-site transfers for treatment and disposal from 1998 levels by working with treatment plants and industries.

- By 2005, reduce by 15% chemicals of concern from 1998 in impacted areas and areas at risk.
- Treatment plants will work with the Chesapeake Bay Program to encourage industries and watershed residents to reduce their chemical contaminant loads to the treatment plants.
- *Businesses for the Bay* participants will prevent at the source or recycle a total of one billion pounds of hazardous substances between 1999 and 2005.

Addressing Nonpoint Sources

Nonpoint sources of chemical contaminants consist of agricultural, urban and suburban stormwater runoff; atmospheric deposition; and groundwater loadings. Estimates reveal that some nonpoint sources such as urban stormwater runoff can represent a substantial load of chemical contaminants to the Bay watershed. This strategy strives “for zero release of chemical contaminants from nonpoint sources.”

- By 2010, Reduce nonpoint sources of chemicals of concern to the *Regions of Concern* by at least 30% through implementation of pollution prevention and other voluntary nonpoint source programs.
- Achieve by 2010, a no net increase of chemical contaminants from developing lands by using a combination of pollution prevention, sound land use practices and innovative technological solutions.
- Implement innovative stormwater management technologies and pollution prevention measures on lands where stormwater loads of chemical contaminants are not currently managed.

Conducting Monitoring, Assessments and Research

Monitoring, assessments and research is necessary to improve our understanding of the impact of chemical contaminants and to identify emerging threats to the watershed. The Bay Program partners commit to improve our understanding of how basinwide chemical contaminant loads and impacts are related. Monitoring, research and assessments will be conducted to measure progress.

- Complete the assessment of toxic impacts on living resources and improve estimates of chemical contaminant loads entering the watershed.
- Review data on the potential for animal agriculture to cause impacts on the Bay's living resources, fill in any existing data gaps and take management actions as necessary to prevent negative impacts.
- Anticipate emerging chemical contaminant issues by conducting necessary monitoring and assessments and holding workshops to explore the relevancy of other chemical contaminant issues to the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Sustaining Progress

To maintain the successes of the *Toxics 2000 Strategy*, a community-based management approach will be promoted. Citizens who work and live within the watershed will be actively involved in developing a plan for addressing chemical contaminant problems.

- Anticipate future changes and activities on the watershed such as population growth, expanded development and transportation.
- Ensure that the appropriate voluntary pollution prevention measures are in place to sustain progress.
- Encourage advances in zero release technologies, stormwater runoff controls, sound landuse planning and methods for

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A Watershed Partnership

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dealing with contaminated
sediment.

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The Chesapeake Bay Program is restoring the Bay watershed through a partnership among the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency representing the federal government, the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and participating citizen advisory groups.