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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND
THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
IN REGARD TO CHESAPEAKE BAY

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) agrees to join with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a contributing member of the institutional framework established by the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council. In particular, USGS will actively participate in the Monitoring and Modeling and Research Subcommittees of the Implementation Committee. This document represents the beginning of a new level of cooperation between USGS and EPA to assure that the mandate of each agency is applied most effectively to achieve the water quality and natural resource goals for Chesapeake Bay. The memorandum provides constructive guidance for interactions between the signatory Agencies. It does not limit the cooperative or creative process but provides a basis for progress towards a cleaner and more productive Chesapeake Bay.

We the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Geological Survey mutually agree to pursue the following goals and objectives, consistent with agency policies and resources available in each succeeding fiscal year:

1. We agree that the USGS workplans as related to Chesapeake Bay will reflect a cognizance of current Bay initiatives and will be made available for review and comment by the Implementation Committee for the purpose and intent of ensuring the best possible allocation of resources towards the most productive possible goals in restoring the Bay system. USGS will provide annually an informal summary of progress on projects as related to the Chesapeake Bay Program.
2. USGS recognizes with EPA and the States, the vital nature of the Fall Line data base and will seek to cooperate in extending collection of these data on a continuing long-term basis.
3. USGS and EPA recognize the importance of accurate constituent-load estimates for major tributaries to the Bay and the potential great cost to society if management decisions are based on incomplete information. Accordingly, USGS and EPA will pursue a research effort designed to evaluate alternative methods of calculating loads, based on flow and constituent concentration information.
4. USGS and EPA recognize the great importance of the research and sampling work currently underway on the lower Potomac estuary and the great value of the work USGS carried out in the early 1980's on the same estuary. USGS therefore assures that it will seek to have its investigators make the insights from these valuable studies available to the decision-making community as expeditiously as possible, by way of appropriately-timed seminars, if appropriate. It is especially important that routine data collection be brought into the Bay-wide data base in Annapolis as expeditiously as pre-established project plans permit. Publication rights of the individual contributing scientist will, of course, be protected.

5. EPA agrees to make, as appropriate, staff space and access to the wide data base and computer center facilities available for USGS personnel. USGS will, where practical and feasible, assign personnel to work at the Liaison Office in Annapolis on joint activities identified in this memorandum. EPA agrees to provide training on its VAX 11/780 for the USGS staff and to provide user accounts.


6. EPA and USGS agree to join in a mutually supportive effort to identify the processes necessary for modeling Chesapeake Bay and its watershed in a manner effective as a management tool, recognizing that the joint effort of several agencies will produce a stronger product, more acceptable to the user community.

7. The USGS agrees to work directly with EPA and NOAA in providing technical assistance in developing cartographic techniques to aid in understanding the time, course and impacts of management actions, chiefly those directed at non-point sources problems above the Fall line. USGS will confer with EPA in identifying data production priorities and schedules. USGS will work with EPA and NOAA through cost sharing or data purchase arrangements to produce digital cartographic data required to support these techniques.

8. EPA and USGS recognize the importance of ground water to the Bay. Accordingly, the agencies will seek to cooperate in evaluating the impact of ground water on the Bay and the potential effects of surface-water-quality-control strategies on ground-water quality in the Bay basins.

9. Nothing in this memorandum of understanding alters the statutory authorities and responsibilities of the USGS. It is intended to facilitate those authorities through the cooperative mechanisms of the Chesapeake Bay Program.


U.S. Geological Survey


Environmental Protection Agency

Date

Nov. 21, 1984

Date

Feb 21 1984