

APPENDIX E. Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership's NEIEN Description

The National Environmental Information Exchange Network (NEIEN) is a state-federal data-sharing partnership by which environmental information can be shared, integrated, analyzed, and reported without having to take possession of the data. Within the CBP Partnership, NEIEN is being used an internet- and standards-based method for securely exchanging non-point source BMP information between jurisdictional partners and EPA through a system of “nodes” that communicate and handle requests. The CBP Partnership built upon the existing NEIEN system to incorporate data field and standards for exchanging information relevant to verification of individual practices, treatments, and technologies.

BMP data from the jurisdictions is submitted to NEIEN in the form of an XML file which allows multiple data elements to be associated with each record. Some of those elements include: implementation date, maintenance date, inspection date, reporting agency, funding source, geographic coordinates, etc. This detailed BMP information is then migrated into Scenario Builder and is processed according to Watershed Model needs, based on rules developed in consultation with the state and documented in the appropriate Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).

