

Summary of PSC Feedback on Potential Impacts of COVID-19 on Key CBP Dates

Overarching message: While more time may be needed to understand the full impacts of COVID-19 on programs and implementation efforts, jurisdictions and federal agencies remain committed to the 2025 water quality goals and the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership's deadlines outlined in the Regional Administrator's April 24, 2020 email to the PSC members.

1) PSC-Approved Two-Year Milestones Deliverables and Schedule

- **District of Columbia:** Plans to submit final 2018-2019 and 2020-2021 milestones by the June 1 deadline. The District will revisit these milestones in the fall to determine if additional revisions are necessary due to understanding the full impact of COVID-19 on milestone implementation.
- **Maryland:** Plans to submit final 2018-2019 and 2020-2021 milestones by the June 1 deadline.
- **New York:** Plans to submit final 2018-2019 and 2020-2021 milestones by the June 1 deadline.
- **Pennsylvania:** Plans to submit final 2018-2019 and 2020-2021 milestones by the June 1 deadline.
- **Virginia:** Plans to submit final 2018-2019 and 2020-2021 milestones by the June 1 deadline.
- **West Virginia:** Plans to submit final 2018-2019 and 2020-2021 milestones by the June 1 deadline.
- **Department of Defense:** Federal milestones already submitted.
- **USGS:** Federal milestones already submitted and include monitoring to support the CBP water-quality networks, providing trend analysis of nutrients and sediment, and technical reports and articles on contaminants in the bay watershed. The USGS expects to meet its commitments for these items in 2020-2021.

2. Annual Progress Data Submission Schedules

- **Delaware:** Submission of Delaware's annual BMP progress data by the current deadline may prove difficult. DNREC relies on partners to provide annual data, and many of these partners are based out of local jurisdictions that are facing operational and fiscal difficulties themselves.
- **District of Columbia:** Plans to submit 2020 progress information by the December 1, 2020 deadline. The District encourages its federal agency partners to also meet this deadline (and in the correct format) to ensure a successful submission.
- **Maryland:** Plans to submit 2020 progress information by the December 1, 2020 deadline. However, due to delays with project implementation and field verification in the agricultural sector, Maryland anticipates these reporting numbers will be reduced.
- **New York:** Plans to submit 2020 progress information by the December 1, 2020 deadline.
- **Pennsylvania:** Plans to submit 2020 progress information by the December 1, 2020 deadline.
- **Virginia:** Plans to submit 2020 progress information by the December 1, 2020 deadline.
- **West Virginia:** Plans to submit 2020 progress information by the December 1, 2020 deadline.
- **Department of Defense:** Plans to meet the October 1, 2020 deadline for federal facilities; however, this depends on whether DoD personnel are back in the office to send out the data call starting on August 1, 2020.

3. QAPPs for ongoing monitoring

- **Delaware:** Delaware's updates to QAPPs may be impacted if Delaware's local jurisdictions are functioning at a lower capacity.
- **District of Columbia:** Monitoring efforts have currently been suspended and thus could cause delays to the program, including the development of an updated QAPP if needed.
- **Maryland:** Plans to meet the annual deadline (all monitoring QAPPs are currently up to date).
- **New York:** Plans to meet the annual deadline.

- **Pennsylvania:** Plans to meet the annual deadline.
- **Virginia:** Plans to meet the annual deadline.
- **West Virginia:** Plans to meet the annual deadline.
- **USGS:** The USGS provides quality-assurance support for the CBP, through an inter-agency agreement, which includes having a USGS employee serve as the CBP QA Officer. The QA duties have continued mostly as planned, except conducting audits of field and lab procedures. The QA Officer has increased the frequency of examining Performance Testing and QA sample results from the watershed. This closer scrutiny of data and having QAPPs validated will be way to mitigate the lack of audits.

4. QAPPs for BMP verification

- **Delaware:** Delaware's updates to QAPPs may be impacted if Delaware's local jurisdictions are functioning at a lower capacity.
- **District of Columbia:** Plans to submit the updated BMP verification QAPP by the December 1, 2020 deadline. If an extension is necessary, the District will notify EPA.
- **Maryland:** Plans to submit the updated BMP verification QAPP by the December 1, 2020 deadline. However, due to delays with project implementation and field verification in the agricultural sector, Maryland anticipates these reporting numbers will be reduced.
- **New York:** Plans to submit the updated BMP verification QAPP by the December 1, 2020 deadline.
- **Pennsylvania:** Plans to submit the updated BMP verification QAPP by the December 1, 2020 deadline.
- **Virginia:** Plans to submit the updated BMP verification QAPP by the December 1, 2020 deadline.
- **West Virginia:** Plans to submit the updated BMP verification QAPP by the December 1, 2020 deadline.

5. Submission of tidal and non-tidal water quality monitoring data

- **District of Columbia:** The District has suspended its monitoring and data collection efforts and anticipates delays in submitting water quality monitoring data on time. In particular, seasonal data that is typically collected during the COVID-19 Stay at Home Order will most likely not be collected.
- **Maryland:** MD DNR has temporarily suspended all field monitoring activities. Field sampling guidelines are currently under development to ensure staff safety and the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory has recently reopened. Once monitoring sampling activities can resume, the lab will be able to process the data.
- **New York:** Plans to meet the reporting deadline.
- **Pennsylvania:** Plans to meet the reporting deadline.
- **Virginia:** Plans to meet the reporting deadline. Field staff have resumed normal operations and any missed monitoring activities have been communicated to the Bay Program. No concerns identified at this point.
- **West Virginia:** Plans to meet the reporting deadline.
- **USGS:** Adjustments have been made for USGS monitoring and field work to ensure safety of personnel. The USGS has been able to continue its portion of the primary water-quality monitoring efforts for the CBP: (1) the river-input monitoring project, and the (2) nontidal network. The USGS data submission for these CBP networks will continue as planned.

6. Other Issues

- **Delaware:** Delaware state government is currently projecting a \$784.5 million decline in revenue over the two fiscal years, and that figure is expected to increase. Budget impacts are certain for both environmental and agricultural related programs. For example, while Delaware continues to operate as efficiently as possible, the ability to leverage state generated funds toward match requirements of certain water quality-based grants could be adversely impacted. In addition, the current

situation may also impact state cost-share of Nutrient Management Plans and Nutrient Transport. These are decisions that will obviously be made by the legislative branch and Delaware cannot currently predict what specific reductions may be taken.

- **New York:** Meeting New York's planned BMP implementation and verification will be challenging but the state is committed to meeting its goals and commitments. New York is actively communicating with local partners to determine the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.
- **Pennsylvania:** Budget and hiring freezes, as well as staff furloughs, have already created delays with BMP implementation in the agricultural sector, including inspections and forest buffer implementation. While the Commonwealth remains committed to achieving all reporting deadlines and its water quality goals, more time is needed to understand the full impacts of COVID-19 on progress towards meeting those commitments.
- **West Virginia:** Meeting West Virginia's planned BMP implementation and verification will be challenging but the state is committed to meeting its goals and commitments.
- **USGS:** The USGS has an interagency agreement to provide GIS support, oversight of land characterization and change information, and coordination for the healthy watershed GIT. The USGS expects to meet all 2020 deadlines for this agreement. In addition, collaboration on data management, analysis and report writing have all continued. Finally, the USGS continues to share results of our findings with CBP stakeholders through virtual interactions with the Management Board, Goal Implementation Teams, and Workgroups.