



Chesapeake Bay Program

CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DIRECTIVE NO. 93-5

Agricultural Nonpoint Source Initiative

In 1983, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency formally committed to manage the Chesapeake Bay as an integrated ecosystem to restore and maintain its health. In 1987, the Council committed to reducing nutrients by 40 percent by the year 2000. The 1992 Amendments reaffirmed and expanded these commitments to reflect the critical importance of the tributaries in the ultimate restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, particularly in reducing nutrients. In 1992, the Council called for an independent committee to develop specific recommendations to increase the capability of the Bay Program and its participants to reduce nonpoint source pollution from agricultural source. This challenge was given because of the importance agriculture plays in restoring the health of the Bay. Based upon the 1992 Agricultural Nonpoint Source Initiative, the Council has found that:

- € Agriculture contributes significantly to the overall loading of nutrients to the Chesapeake Bay.
- € To meet the 40 percent reduction goal by the year 2000, agriculture's contribution must be addressed.
- € The agricultural community including farmers, agribusiness and agricultural organizations wants to actively participate in the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay.
- € Increased cooperation and communication among the various local, state and federal agencies that regulate or assist agriculture is necessary, to help agriculture significantly reduce its portion of the nutrient load entering the tributaries and the main Bay.

THEREFORE TO FURTHER OUR COMMITMENTS MADE IN THE 1987 CHESAPEAKE BAY AGREEMENT AND THE 1992 AMENDMENTS TO THAT AGREEMENT, WE AGREE:

To encourage further nutrient reductions from agricultural lands by assisting farmers to develop and implement comprehensive and integrated site specific management of land, water and ecological resources (total resource management plans).

€ To assist state and federal agencies to develop and implement total resource management planning programs in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia to support the efforts of farmers to initiate and implement total resource management plans.

€ To continue the 1992 Agricultural Nonpoint Source Initiative Steering Committee for another year as a

senior level advisory group to the signatories on issues related to the development and implementation of total resource management planning and other agricultural nonpoint source issues.

€ To broaden and increase representation and participation in the development and review of proposed CBP agriculture related policies, plans, strategies and programs; the implementation of total resource management planning programs, and the evaluation of the implementation of such policies, plans, strategies and programs. Particular attention will be given to encouraging the involvement of the agricultural community, local governments, and the private sector as well as federal and state agencies responsible for regulating or delivering programs to the agricultural community.

By this DIRECTIVE, we reaffirm our commitments made in the Chesapeake Bay Agreement to restore and protect the ecological integrity, productivity and beneficial uses of the Chesapeake Bay. In recognition of our commitments, we the undersigned agree to further our efforts through this directive which is hereby incorporated into the overall Chesapeake Bay Program.

DATE: December 27, 1993

SIGNERS:

For the Commonwealth of Virginia<*Lawrence Douglas Wilder, Governor*

For the State of Maryland<*William Donald Shafer, Governor*

For the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania<*Robert P. Casey, Governor*

For the District of Columbia<*Sharon Pratt Kelly, Mayor*

For the United States of America<*Carol M. Browner, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

For the Chesapeake Bay Commission<*Jeffrey W. Coy, Chairman*

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For more information, contact the Chesapeake Bay Program Office, 410 Severn Avenue, Suite 110, Annapolis, MD 21403, Tel: (800) YOUR-BAY, Fax: (410) 267-5777.



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