

Chesapeake Bay TMDL 2017 Midpoint Assessment: Building the capacity for success in Phase II WIPs

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What is the Midpoint Assessment?

- Review of progress towards meeting the 2017 60% interim target and 2025 Chesapeake Bay TMDL goal
- **Optimize implementation of Bay jurisdictions' WIPs and ensure we're on track for development of Phase III WIPs**
- Gather, review, and incorporate new data and science into the Partnership's decision support tools

Midpoint Assessment Guiding Principles

1. Continue implementation, tracking progress and reporting results, with stable tools through at least 2017
2. Enhance decision support and assessment tools to enable successful engagement of local partners
3. Incorporate new or refined BMPs and verification of practices into existing accountability tools and reporting protocols
4. Address emerging issues (e.g., climate change)
5. Prioritize midpoint assessment actions and use adaptive management to ensure goals are met

Midpoint Assessment Timeline

Jurisdiction Implementation of WIPs & Two Year Milestones
Evaluation of Programmatic and Load Reduction Commitments
Monitoring data assessments/factors affecting trend findings

Agreement on path forward and data inputs

•2014

- New land use classifications and loading rates approved
- BMP panel recommendations for Phase 6.0 inclusion
- Agreement on Midpoint Assessment Schedule

Agreement on framing the priority issues

•2015

- Early review of decision support tools
- James River chlorophyll assessment criteria completed
- Conowingo Dam study complete
- Review and incorporate decisions of climate change impacts
- BMP panel recommendations for Phase 6.0 inclusion

Approval of decision support tools

•2016

- Final partnership comments on suite of tools
- Partnership input to any updates to local area target expectations
- Review and incorporate decisions of climate change impacts

Establish Phase III WIP targets

•2017

- Phase III WIP expectations finalized
- Partnership informs final decisions on reallocation process

Complete Phase III WIPs

•2018

- Support for Phase III WIP development using Phase 6.0 modeling tools

Evaluation of 60% by 2017 target using Phase 5.3.2 modeling tools

•2018

- Comprehensive monitoring and trend findings through 2016

Midpoint Assessment Schedule: Short Term

2014	2015	2016
Identification of new land use classifications	Approval of final land use loading rates	Incorporate Conowingo infill considerations into Phase 6 (through 2016)
BMP Expert Panels (ongoing through 2016)	Final land uses & loading rates into beta and final Phase 6 WSM (October 2015 and December 2016)	Incorporate climate change considerations into Phase 6 (Dec 2016)
Approval of Midpoint Assessment schedule and decision making roles and process	BMPs approved and incorporated into beta and final Phase 6 Watershed Model (October 2015 and October 2016)	Partners factor in VA's James Chlorophyll-a assessment findings; evaluation of changes to allocations
Studies and monitoring underway for Conowingo Dam/Reservoir	James Chlorophyll-a criteria assessment ongoing	Draft Phase 6 watershed model released for partnership review (Jan 2016)

Midpoint Assessment Schedule: Long Term

2017	2018
Partnership approves Phase 6, other Partnership models (spring 2017)	Evaluate progress and attainment of “60% by 2017 goal” (Spring 2018)
Partnership decisions on addressing effects of Conowingo (early winter 2017)	Jurisdictions’ draft Phase III WIPs due (June 2018)
Partnership decision on how and when to incorporate responses to climate change assessments (early winter 2017)	Jurisdiction’s final Phase III WIPs due (Dec 2018)
EPA sets Phase III WIP planning targets for 2025 with partnership input (draft – spring 2017; final – winter 2017)	Development of 2018-2019 two-year milestones (early 2018)
EPA provides expectations for scope of jurisdictions’ Phase III WIPs (draft - January 2017; final - June 2017)	Based on Phase III WIPs and Midpoint Assessment, EPA determines whether to modify the Bay TMDL (early 2019)

What's Next for the Midpoint Assessment – Big Picture

- **Climate Change**

- Potential independent scientific peer review in summer 2016 (may occur as part of the peer review of the modeling tools) (Lead: STAC)
- Modeling team generates climate change analyses by fall 2016 to inform future policy decisions (Lead: Modeling Workgroup)
- Partnership decisions on how to factor climate change into WIPs in fall 2016-winter 2017 (Leads: WQGIT, Management Board, and Principals' Staff Committee)
- Factor climate change considerations into Phase III WIPs in 2018 (Lead: State Jurisdictions)