

State Secretaries/Director – Today the Water Quality GIT is meeting to have discussions on EPA’s preliminary draft expectations for the seven Chesapeake Bay watershed jurisdictions’ Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs). We are providing this preliminary draft version of the expectations document well in advance of the original Partnership-approved date of January 2017 at the request of the Partnership and to help facilitate timely engagement with local and federal partners in the planning and development of the jurisdictions’ Phase III WIPs. I want to ensure that you have the information that folks are discussing.

These expectations are intended to support the development and implementation of the jurisdictions’ Phase III WIPs so that by 2025, all practices and controls have been installed to achieve the Bay’s dissolved oxygen, water clarity/submerged aquatic vegetation, and chlorophyll a water quality standards. Future iterations of the Phase III WIP expectations document will be developed in accordance with the Partnership-approved schedule to incorporate information and Partnership decisions on key Midpoint Assessment priorities, as well as potential state-specific expectations for those jurisdictions and pollutant source sectors that are significantly off track.

As with the Phase I and Phase II WIP expectation documents, EPA will be soliciting Partnership feedback on this preliminary draft through a series of targeted presentations and briefings over the coming months. EPA plans to discuss the preliminary draft, along with Partnership feedback received to date, with the Principals’ Staff Committee (PSC) during our August 10th PSC conference call. It is anticipated that EPA will finalize and release the preliminary Phase III WIP expectations by the end of August 2016. The planned schedule for these Partnership briefings, as well as the deadlines for the draft and final Phase III WIPs and expectations document, are as follows:

- June 27 & July 11, 2016: Water Quality Goal Implementation Team conference calls;
- July 14, 2016: Management Board Meeting;
- August 10, 2016: Principals’ Staff Committee conference call;
- August 2016: EPA releases its preliminary Phase III WIP expectations;
- January 2017: EPA releases its draft Phase III WIP expectations;
- April 2017: EPA releases its final Phase III WIP expectations;
- August 2018: Draft Phase III WIPs due to EPA; and
- December 2018: Final Phase III WIPs due to EPA.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Ms. Lucinda Power, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office, at 410-267-5722.

Thanks – Shawn