

Two-Year Milestones Background

November 20, 2008 Executive Council Meeting: New Two-year milestones announced.

Original Milestones Action Team Charge

ACTION TEAM CHARGE

- Vet various options for a new Bay clean-up deadline and provide a consensus recommendation to the PSC in advance of the April PSC meeting.
- Reach agreement on a set of guidelines for jurisdictional development of 2-year milestones.
- Develop jurisdictional-specific milestones for the 2009-2020 time period and provide to the PSC for review in advance of the April PSC meeting.
- Discuss various options for adopting contingencies in the event of failure to meet 2-year milestones.

Sept 22, 2009 PSC Presentation on Accountability (PPT not available on Bay.net)

January 13, 2009 PSC Presentation Milestones and Clean Up Deadline [Presentation](#), [Briefing Paper](#)

March 13, 2009 Management Board Meeting

[Two-year Milestones and New Deadline Briefing Paper](#) (Relevant Contents)

Milestones Guiding Principles

- Will focus strictly on Bay water quality restoration goals (reduction of nutrients and sediments).
- Jurisdiction-specific milestone outcomes could be rolled up into a single, basin-wide summary.
- Possible milestones outcomes include: % pollution reduced; pounds of pollution reduced; % necessary program(s) implemented; % closure in funding gaps; number of segments delisted; and adoption of new regulations, legislation, policies.
- Common set of milestone attributes will ensure consistency, accountability and ease of communications within/across jurisdictions.

Milestones Attributes

- Measurable, trackable, reportable and related to the end goal (cap load allocations)

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- Translate or relate actions and resources to Bay water quality endpoints Using ‘common currency’ (e.g., delivered load to tidal waters)
- Not just limited to ‘pounds reduced’ and ‘acres implemented’—need to get at the means for accelerating implementation (e.g., new funding, regulation, legislation, policies)
- Can be summarized and reported basinwide
- Accelerates past rates of implementation to meet the new cleanup deadline—not strictly an extrapolation from past progress
- Consistency across the 7 jurisdictions
- Can establish basinwide milestones in addition to jurisdiction-specific
- First 2-year milestones will be from mid-2009 through end of 2011
- Continue using the partnership’s progress reporting mechanisms already in place
- We intend to develop milestones which are ‘stretch goals but still attainable’
- The milestones result in accelerated implementation, not just maintaining current pace
- Milestones could/should include commitments to seek new regulations, enactment of new legislation/policies in addition to pounds reduced milestones

April 14, 2009 Management Board Meeting

- [April 14, 2009 Original Milestones Action Team Charge](#) (As seen above)
- April 14, 2009 Milestone Action Team [deadline Attachment B](#) (related to setting deadline)
- April 14, 2009 [Milestones Handout](#) (related to numbers)
- April 14, 2009 Milestones PPT (not available online)

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- [Presentation WQ Milestones and the New End Date](#) (focused on end date)

Milestones Guide July 2011

Page 2, Section II. **Expectations for the Bay Watershed Jurisdictions’ Development of the 2012-2025 Two-Year Milestones**

Bay watershed jurisdictions are to submit final two-year milestones to EPA by January 7 of each even year, beginning in January 2012, with draft milestones due to EPA by November 1 of each odd year beginning in 2011.

- EPA expects the Bay watershed jurisdictions to: Develop detailed two-year milestones that identify and commit to implement specific pollutant reduction measures to achieve the two-year milestone commitments. The milestones are

expected to contain more detail and more transparent reporting to the public than past Bay restoration efforts.¹

- Explain how the increments of pollutant reduction for each two-year milestone are on pace to implement 60% of the practices needed to achieve the pollution reductions allocated to the Bay watershed jurisdiction in the Bay TMDL by 2017 and 100% of those practices by 2025.
- Work with federal agencies to submit an input deck with the number, location (as appropriate) and type of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment reductions on federal, state, municipal, and private lands that will be implemented within the two-year period, starting July 1 of the prior odd year and ending June 30 of the following odd year as illustrated in Appendix A.
- Identify and commit to implement specific programmatic actions, such as rulemakings and additional resources to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loads, which will be needed in order to achieve the pollutant reductions identified for the current two calendar year period or future two calendar year periods.

Although programmatic actions may not result in on-the-ground implementation within the two-year milestone period, EPA expects Bay watershed jurisdictions to include this information to demonstrate assurance that future nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment controls resulting from these capacity-building actions will occur on schedule.

Prior to the start of each milestone period, EPA will evaluate whether the draft two-year milestones are sufficient to achieve the pollutant reductions necessary to meet the Bay TMDL allocations, which were based upon the Bay watershed jurisdictions' WIPs. EPA recognizes that the Bay watershed jurisdictions' actions may differ from their milestone commitments based on changing conditions and the availability of new information. EPA does not expect the Bay watershed jurisdictions to revise their commitments on an ongoing basis throughout the milestone period if they can account for their actions in the annual progress reporting due to EPA at the end of December each year. EPA supports adaptive management of two-year milestones so long as the overall pace of pollutant reductions remains consistent with a Bay watershed jurisdiction's WIP commitments and remain on pace to implement 60% of the practices needed to achieve the pollutant reductions

¹ 5 USEPA (2009), Letter from Region III Acting Administrator William C. Early to Secretary L. Preston Bryant, Virginia Department of Natural Resources, November 4, accessed at http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/pdf/pdf_chesbay/tmdl_implementation_letter_110409.pdf

AI Generated List of Guidance for Milestones (April 2025):

For effective environmental programs, milestone guidance should focus on setting clear, measurable goals, establishing a timeline for progress, and implementing strategies for continuous improvement and adaptation, while also engaging stakeholders and ensuring transparency.

Here's a breakdown of key aspects of milestone guidance for environmental programs:

1. Defining Clear Goals and Objectives:

- **Set Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound (SMART) goals:**

Ensure goals are concrete and quantifiable, allowing for progress tracking.

- **Establish a hierarchy of goals:**

Break down broad environmental objectives into smaller, manageable milestones.

- **Consider both short-term and long-term targets:**

Short-term milestones provide momentum, while long-term goals ensure long-term sustainability.

- **Align with relevant regulations and international agreements:**

Ensure compliance with environmental laws and commitments.

2. Developing a Timeline and Schedule:

- **Create a realistic timeline for achieving milestones:**

Factor in resource availability, technical feasibility, and potential challenges.

- **Break down the timeline into phases or stages:**

This allows for better monitoring and control.

- **Set interim milestones:**

These provide checkpoints to assess progress and make adjustments as needed.

- **Consider using a project management methodology:**

Tools like Gantt charts or critical path analysis can help with planning and scheduling.

3. Implementing Strategies and Actions:

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- **Develop a comprehensive action plan:**

Outline the specific activities and resources required to achieve each milestone.

- **Identify key stakeholders:**

Involve relevant parties, such as government agencies, businesses, and community groups, in the planning and implementation process.

- **Implement monitoring and evaluation mechanisms:**

Track progress against milestones and identify areas for improvement.

- **Ensure flexibility and adaptability:**

Be prepared to adjust plans based on changing circumstances or new information.

4. Engaging Stakeholders and Ensuring Transparency:

- **Communicate regularly with stakeholders:** Keep them informed about progress and any challenges encountered.
- **Seek feedback and input:** Involve stakeholders in the decision-making process.
- **Promote transparency and accountability:** Ensure that environmental programs are open to public scrutiny.
- **Use data and evidence to support decision-making:** Base actions on sound scientific principles and data analysis.

Examples of Environmental Milestones:

- **Pollution Reduction:**
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by a certain percentage within a specific timeframe.
 - Decrease water pollution levels in a particular river or lake.
 - Eliminate the use of specific hazardous chemicals.
- **Resource Conservation:**
 - Increase the use of renewable energy sources.
 - Reduce water consumption in a specific sector.
 - Promote waste reduction and recycling programs.

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- **Habitat Restoration:**

- Restore a certain area of degraded habitat.
- Protect endangered species and their habitats.
- Improve water quality in a specific watershed.