

Next Steps for the 2010 Bay TMDL and the Phase II WIPs

Will you continue to adjust the model and thus the allocations as the TMDL moves forward?

We will again reevaluate the models and allocations before 2017, when we move into the third and final phase of the Watershed Implementation Plans. The Phase III WIPs in 2017 will be based on new scientific information and model updates, and will include practices implemented between 2018 and 2025 that will fully meet all water quality standards.

What are the next steps in the Phase II WIP development process?

The jurisdictions will continue working with their local partners and stakeholders over the summer and into the fall, submitting their draft Phase II WIPs to EPA by December 15, 2011. Formal EPA comments on draft Phase II WIPs will be distributed to the jurisdictions by February 15, 2012, with final Phase II WIPs submitted by the jurisdictions to EPA by March 30, 2012.

What is the purpose of Phase II WIPs?

Phase II provides the jurisdictions with the opportunity to facilitate implementation through engagement and refined strategies; to identify the amount and location of practices to meet both 2017 and 2025 goals; to propose modifications as necessary to TMDL allocations; and to further demonstrate and strengthen reasonable assurance. In their Phase II WIP narratives, and working with local elected decision-makers, local agency staff, and other local partners, jurisdictions will describe strategies to get these practices in place by 2017 and 2025. EPA expects more detail in the strategies describing how jurisdictions will get practices in place by 2017 that would achieve 60% of necessary reductions.

How many input decks that identify nutrient and sediment controls for model analysis does EPA expect the 7 Bay jurisdictions to submit?

Phase II will require 2 input decks from each Bay jurisdiction that should include: 1) practices in place by 2017 and 2) practices in place by 2025. Both input decks, when run through Scenario Builder and the Watershed Model, will provide the necessary detail on local area targets.

What are the upcoming deadlines for milestone commitments?

The jurisdictions' preliminary 2012-2013 milestone commitments need to be submitted to EPA by November 1, 2011 with final 2012-2013 milestone commitments due to EPA by January 7, 2012. Federal agencies'

preliminary 2012-2013 milestone commitments should be submitted to EPA with a copy to the appropriate jurisdiction(s) by October 1, 2011 with final 2012-2013 milestone commitments due to EPA by January 7, 2012.

How will EPA help the jurisdictions take the next steps?

EPA has been working closely with staff in all seven jurisdictions to assist in WIP development and will continue to do so over the ensuing months. EPA has made substantial technical and financial resources available to assist in the WIP development process, through EPA contractor support, implementation grants, coordination and resources for on-the-ground circuit riders and service providers, and technical assistance, including Scenario Builder analysis and webinars to help partners estimate nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment reductions associated with proposed management actions.

Specifically, EPA is making contractor resources provided in FY2010 (\$400,000) for the Phase I WIPs and local pilots available for use in the development of Phase II WIPs. In addition, EPA is providing each jurisdiction with approximately 300 contractor hours out of our FY 2011 budget. Jurisdictions may use

contractor resources for either general WIP support through Tetra Tech, or for facilitation services available through contractors with EPA's Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center. In addition, jurisdictions may secure additional EPA contractor resources by requesting in-kind services as part of their FY 2011 Chesapeake Bay Regulatory and Accountability Program grant, and many activities associated with WIPs would also be eligible for funding under the Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant programs. Support is subject to the availability of federal appropriations.

EPA senior managers, staff, and CBP technical sector experts (e.g. agriculture and stormwater) will continue working with the Bay jurisdictions in Phase II WIP development and implementation, including providing comments on and conducting a targeted reasonable assurance review for the draft Phase II WIPs; and partnering with jurisdictions and local entities, as requested, in outreach efforts. In addition, the Chesapeake Bay Program will release the Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool (CAST) in early September to assist jurisdictions with input deck development as part of the Phase II WIP process.