

2026-2027 Milestone Schedule

Schedule

Through collaborative discussions with the CBP partnership's Milestones Workgroup¹, an update to the schedule is proposed starting in 2026 to better align with CBP partnership reporting.

Proposed Two-Year Water Quality Milestones Timeframe

Milestones cover January 1 of an even numbered year through December 31 of an odd numbered year. For example, for the 2026-2027 programmatic milestones, the reporting period is January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2027. *Near-term 2026-2027 milestones may include BMP implementation targets or other numeric targets. Development/Submittal of numeric milestones will be revisited by the CBP partnership in future milestones expectations documents upon the updated modeling tools and revised targets.*

This schedule covers development of the 2026-2027 milestones through evaluation of those milestones. Note that there may be future CBP partnership decisions related to milestones upon development of new targets and potential reevaluation of the accountability framework. Dates and actions identified in 2027 and 2028 are subject to change based upon CBP partnership discussion and future decisions.

*Note: **Blue** indicates changes from the current schedule. Dates in () and blue text will not remain in final documents. They are intended as illustrative of the timeline.*

- **October 2025 – Final Expectations**
 - The EPA releases expectations for the near-term milestones.
- **September 2025** – EPA sends instructions to federal agencies on submitting numeric progress to the states, as outlined in the Clean Water Act section 117 grant guidance, and submitting two-year milestones.
- **October 1, 2025 – Federal agencies report numeric progress to jurisdictions and EPA**
 - Covering the progress made from July 1 of the prior year through June 30 of the current year

¹ The CBP partnership's Milestones Workgroup reports directly to the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team. More information can be found at <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/group/milestones-workgroup>.

- **Fall 2025/Winter 2025-2026** – Numeric progress data are submitted and next round of milestone commitments are drafted
 - Milestone Partners draft 2026-2027 milestone commitments
 - By December 1, 2025, the jurisdictions and Conowingo submit numeric progress data to NEIEN, reporting to EPA on consolidated federal/non-federal numeric progress for pollutant reduction measures that are tracked, verified, and reported for the previous July 1 – June 30 period. Virginia submits numeric wastewater data by January 31 each year.
- **February 13, 2026** – Submit milestones progress and commitments
 - Milestone Partners report to EPA on progress toward achieving programmatic milestone commitments for the prior milestone period (2024-2025), based on the timeframes noted above.
 - Milestone Partners submit draft 2026-2027 milestone commitments to EPA.
- **February 27, 2026** – Post online within two weeks of submitting
 - Jurisdictions and Conowingo post draft 2026-2027 milestone commitments to their websites for public access.
 - EPA compiles all draft federal agency milestone commitments, posts to the Federal Leadership website, and shares with the CBP partnership's Management Board and the Federal Office Directors for 15-day review and comment.
- **Within 60 days of submission (April 15, 2026)** – EPA evaluation shared
 - EPA provides evaluations of the Milestone Partners' draft 2026-2027 milestone commitments.
 - EPA's evaluation will only speak to the draft 2026-2027 milestone commitments rather than both progress and commitments for this first evaluation.
- **Within 30 days (May 15, 2026)** of the EPA evaluation – Submit final milestone commitments
 - Milestone Partners submit final milestone commitments to EPA.
 - **Within two weeks (May 29, 2026)** Milestone Partners post final milestone commitments online.

- **Within 60 days (July 31, 2026)** of submission or finalized numeric progress reports, whichever is later – EPA evaluation shared
 - EPA evaluates both progress on existing milestones and evaluation of the final milestone commitments for each Milestone Partner to the Chesapeake Bay TMDL website.
- **September 2026** – EPA sends instructions to federal agencies on submitting numeric progress to the states and submitting two-year milestones².
- **October 1, 2026 – Federal agencies report numeric progress to jurisdictions and EPA**
- **December 1, 2026 – Numeric progress data submitted to NEIEN**
 - Virginia wastewater data is due January 31 each year.
- **Spring 2027** – CBP partnership finalizes annual numeric progress and verification assessments.
- **September 2027** – EPA sends instructions to federal agencies on submitting numeric progress to the states and submitting two-year milestones.
- **October 1, 2027 – Federal agencies report numeric progress to jurisdictions and EPA**
- **December 1, 2027 – Numeric progress data submitted to NEIEN**
 - Virginia wastewater data is due January 31 each year.
- **February 14, 2028** – Submit milestones progress and commitments
 - Milestone Partners report to EPA on progress toward achieving programmatic milestone commitments for the prior milestone period (2024-2025), based on the timeframes noted above.
 - Milestone Partners submit draft 2028-2029 milestone commitments to EPA.
- **February 28, 2028** – Post online within two weeks of submitting
 - Jurisdictions and Conowingo post draft 2028-2029 milestone commitments to their websites for public access.

² Instructions for states to submit progress are outlined in the Clean Water Act 117 grant guidance.

- EPA compiles all draft federal agency milestone commitments, posts to the Federal Leadership website, and shares with the CBP partnership's Management Board and the Federal Office Directors for 15-day review and comment.
- **Within 60 days of submission (April 14, 2028)** – EPA evaluation shared
 - EPA provides an evaluation of Milestone Partners' draft 2028-2029 milestone commitments.
 - EPA's evaluation will only speak to the draft 2028-2029 commitments rather than both progress and commitments for this first evaluation.
- **Within 30 days (May 15, 2028)** of the EPA evaluation – Submit final milestone commitments
 - Milestone Partners submit final milestone commitments to EPA.
- **Within two weeks (May 30, 2028)** Milestone Partners post final milestone commitments online.
- **Within 60 days (July 31, 2028)** of submission or finalized numeric progress reports, whichever is later – EPA evaluation shared.
 - EPA evaluates both progress on existing milestones and evaluation of the final milestone commitments for each Milestone Partner to the Chesapeake Bay TMDL website.