



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Near-term Milestone Expectations & Schedule

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Meeting
September 22, 2025
Bo Williams

Agenda

1

Milestone Expectations

Feedback Requested

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Milestone Schedule

Decision Requested

Jan 2025 PSC Decision on “Near-Term” Milestones

- Continue to use milestones during Phase 2 B25 and interim period (while working toward Interim Targets w/ CEC) to maintain accountability under Phase 3 WIPs.
- Milestone period to remain two years. *Jan 1 even numbered years through Dec 31 of odd numbered years.*
- Near-term milestones span 2026 through when new targets are established by partnership (2028 likely)
 - *First near-term milestone period Jan 1, 2026-Dec 31st, 2027.*
- 1-3 pages of “high-level” milestones; more detailed programmatic milestones and numeric milestones still option.
 - Numeric milestones optional
 - Innovative actions recognized but not evaluated
- 2-page fact sheets for progress reports. Highlight successes, barriers, and actions to overcome barriers.

2026-2027 Near Time Milestone Expectations

- Expectations for Milestones Commitments (*i.e., minimum requirements*):
 - 1-3 pages. Identify “high-level” programmatic actions (streamlined from current set)
 - Connection with jurisdiction priorities that would make progress towards reduction targets
 - Completion date and specific deliverable (actions can extend beyond period)
 - Source sector identified
 - Actions are trackable and reportable
 - Use existing reporting mechanisms
 - Stretch goals
- Considerations:
 - Identify measurable outcomes, where feasible
 - Innovation
 - Commitments and expected benefits in addition to water quality (only grading water quality)

2026-2027 Near Time Milestone Expectations

- Expectations for Milestones Progress:
 - 1-3 pages Progress Summary
 - Outline status of milestone (i.e., completed, not completed, revised)
 - Outline successes, barriers, and actions to overcome barriers in meeting programmatic initiatives and implementation.
- EPA to evaluate:
 - Progress on water quality milestone commitments
 - Consider in context of annual progress; evaluations to include numeric assessment.
- EPA doesn't evaluate:
 - Innovative practices
 - Numeric milestones



Questions? Comments?

Comments by Sept 26th.
Send to Bo Williams (Williams.james@epa.gov)



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Proposed Milestone Schedule

- January 1 of even-numbered years through December 31 of odd-numbered years
- October 2025—Final Expectations for Near-term milestones provided to Milestone Partners
- February 13, 2026—Submit Milestone progress and commitments
- Within 60 days of submission (April 15, 2016)—EPA evaluation of commitments NOT progress
- Within 30 days (May 15, 2026)—Final milestone commitments
- Within 60 days of annual progress report—EPA final evaluation of commitments and progress shared

Decision Requested

- Recommend proposed milestone schedule to the Management Board

Two-Year Milestone Expectations: Schedule for Partnership Approval

- August: Share milestone expectations and milestones schedule with Milestone Workgroup for review and comment.
- September (Offline): Milestone Workgroup final review
- September 22nd (materials 9th): WQGIT review
- October 9th: Management Board review
- October 28th: PSC review
- October 31st: Release expectations guide.

February 13, 2026: Jurisdictions, federal agencies, and Conowingo Steering Committee submit milestone progress and commitments