

Proposed Language to Accompany the Phase 6 Nutrient Management BMP Expert Panel's Report

The Chesapeake Bay Program partners will provide for a 3-year transition period for the six states to carry out the programmatic, policy and legislative changes necessary to track, verify and report nutrient management consistent with the recommendations in the Phase 6 Nutrient Management BMP Expert Panel's report. The Partnership's agreement to a 3-year transition period is based on each of the six states taking specific steps over that timeframe as clear demonstrations of their commitment to evolve their BMP tracking, verification and reporting systems to be consistent with the Panel's recommendations by 2019. The Partnership also recognizes the need to work through, agree on, and provide for state-specific guidance on how the Panel's specific practice tracking, verification and reporting recommendations should apply to the unique elements of each state's nutrient management programs. Consistent with the Partnership's Basinwide BMP Verification Framework, the Agriculture Workgroup will continue to have the responsibility for reviewing and approving, on behalf of the Partnership, all amendments and additions to the existing agriculture verification guidance and adopted protocols. In parallel, EPA will work to provide programmatic, financial, contractual, and technical support and resources to the states to supplement their efforts to become consistent with the Panel's recommendations.