Attachment B

Narrative Describing Request for Statistical-Based Survey Design Expert Review Support to the CBP Partnership's BMP Verification Review Panel

Background

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership's BMP Verification Review Panel has recognized that its membership does not include experts in design of statistical-based surveys. During the Panel's review of the seven jurisdictions' proposed BMP verification programs, the Panel asked EPA to make arrangements for a small team of statistical-based survey design experts to review the jurisdictions' proposed BMP verification protocols/procedures which rely on the routine implementation of statistical-based survey techniques.

Panel's Request for Support Provided to Virginia Tech

Convene a small team of recognized experts (the Team) in the design of statistical-based surveys to review individual jurisdictions' proposed BMP verification protocols/procedures which rely on the routine implementation of statistical-based survey techniques. These reviews would take place during the July 1-July 20 timeframe, in parallel to the CBP BMP Verification Review Panel's review of all seven jurisdictions' proposed BMP verification programs.

The Team would conduct their reviews based on accepted statistical survey design principles to determine whether the described survey design would meet the level of confidence documented in the respective jurisdiction's BMP verification program's quality assurance plan. The Team would provide the CBP BMP Verification Review Panel with a written summary of their review findings and resultant recommendations for any required modifications to each jurisdiction's proposed survey design to meet the documented desired level of confidence.

Beyond conducting these jurisdiction specific statistical-based survey reviews, the CBP BMP Verification Review Panel asked that the Team be prepared to discuss with the Panel how to best 'convert' a set of statistical-based survey results into very specific reportable levels of the number/acreage of BMPs implemented. The Panel has challenged the jurisdictions to recommend how they would carry out such a conversion, but the Panel provided no such guidance during the Partnership's development of the Chesapeake Bay Basinwide BMP Verification Framework.