Chesapeake Bay TMDL: a pollution diet

On December 29, 2010 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), a historic and comprehensive "pollution diet" to restore clean water in the Chesapeake Bay and the region’s streams and rivers. The TMDL - the largest ever developed by EPA - identifies the necessary pollution reductions of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment across Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia to meet applicable water quality standards in the Bay by 2025.

Volunteers plant trees and shrubs along a stream in Jefferson County.

Visit:

www.wvca.us/bay
to...

- Sign up for quarterly e-newsletters
- Learn about upcoming events near you
- See “homeowner” page for ideas about what you can do to help on your own property

Or contact:

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WV Dept. of Environmental Protection
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West Virginia’s Involvement in the Chesapeake Bay Program

Reducing nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment in West Virginia’s Potomac River tributaries

2011 update: Developing the Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan

We are drafting local pollution reduction strategies and seeking more input from local governments, watershed groups, farmers, and other "stakeholders."

The dark outline indicates all the land areas (watershed) that drains toward the Chesapeake Bay.
WV’s Phase I WIP and “backstop”

West Virginia helped to shape its own responsibilities under the TMDL (see reverse panel) by submitting to EPA a Phase I Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP, http://www.wvca.us/bay/tmdl.cfm) on November 29, 2010. A targeted federal backstop remains for West Virginia in the agriculture sector, meaning that EPA has reserved the authority to alter WV’s strategy for the agriculture sector. EPA also described enhanced oversight of the stormwater and wastewater sectors, to ensure the load reductions outlined in West Virginia’s WIP are on track. EPA will carefully review West Virginia’s progress toward its two-year milestones and will remain involved with the state during EPA’s refinement of the TMDL in 2012 and 2017. The TMDL’s Executive Summary (http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/tmdl/ChesapeakeBay/tmdlexec.html) is a good place to find more details about the brief update presented here.

Phase I WIP strategies for WV to achieve its pollutant reduction goals (highlights, only):

Wastewater sector: Significant (largest) facilities reduce to loads based upon 5 mg/L nitrogen and 0.5 mg/L phosphorus. Nonsignificant facilities held to existing loads.

Any new facilities must offset the new load 100%.

Agriculture sector: Increase in acres under Nutrient Management Planning, with 95% coverage goal in Jefferson & Berkeley; 40% pastures fenced to exclude livestock from streams; program to increase poultry litter shipped out of the Potomac watershed; significant increase in streamside buffers (trees, grass), cover crops, and conservation tillage; accounting of non cost-share practices.

Developed lands sector: No increase in load must occur, despite expected growth in this sector. Some communities are under a regulated permit for pollution from post-construction stormwater runoff, so we expect to make progress in those communities. However, in the non-regulated areas, progress will have to be made voluntarily in order for WV to meet its reduction goals overall.

Phase II WIP Input Schedule, 2011:

Stakeholder groups in Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan counties meet approximately monthly

1. Wastewater
2. County/town elected officials
3. Developers/planners
4. Agriculture

“Summit” of these groups in August

These groups facilitated by Delta Development, Inc., Eastern Panhandle Regional Development Council (“Region 9”), and WVDEP

Technical support provided by TetraTech, Inc.

Tasks include:
-Documenting capacity to implement commitments in the WIP
-Rank priority/preference practices to be implemented
-Document gaps in capacity to implement practices

August 24, 6:00-7:30 p.m. meeting for Potomac Basin watershed groups to learn about Phase I and Phase II WIPs

Romney’s South Branch Inn, Rte. 50