

To: Interested Stakeholders in the Chesapeake Bay Restoration
From: Maryland Bay Workgroup
Subject: Summary of Maryland's Phase I Watershed Implementation Plan Target Loads
Date: April 6, 2011

Charts summarizing the target loads for nutrients in Maryland's Phase I Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) for the Chesapeake Bay are now available. This summary explanation outlines what is contained in the attached charts. In order to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay, the Phase I WIP proposes strategies for reducing pollutant loads entering the Bay. Maryland's Phase I WIP provides what EPA has required from all jurisdictions in the watershed as "reasonable assurance" that the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for nutrients and sediments will be implemented.

Following the completion of the Phase I WIP in 2010 Maryland engaged local partners in forming Phase II WIP local teams. The local teams are organized at the county geographic scale to support development of more detailed targets and implementation strategies that will meet the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) expectations for Maryland's Phase II WIP to be developed during 2011. They include representatives of counties, municipalities, federal facilities, state facilities, soil conservation districts and others.

EPA is presently updating the Bay watershed model that was used to develop the Bay TMDL and Phase I WIP. The model updates, to be completed in early summer 2011, are likely to result in significant changes to the results of the Phase I WIP and target values in the attached charts. Even though it is clear that model revisions will result in changes, the current model results do provide valuable information that can be used to initiate Phase II planning.

Many of the newly-formed Phase II WIP local teams have requested that the State provide county-scale loads based on current model information by sector so that work on Phase II can begin now. In response, Maryland has developed the attached charts that provide Phase I WIP target loads by source sectors, including point sources, urban stormwater, agriculture, and septic systems. The charts include the:

- 2009 Progress loads (the most recent estimate of current loads);
- 2017 Strategy loads based on the Phase I WIP implementation strategies to meet the statewide interim goal that achieves 70% of the statewide Final Target;
- 2017 Target scenario that provides an alternate reduction schedule based on achieving 70% of Final Targets *for each nonpoint source sector* (which will be necessary for milestones); and the
- Final Targets that are equivalent to the Bay TMDL allocations.



The charts present loads delivered to the Bay, which accounts for losses of nutrients and sediments during the transport process from the source to the Bay. This is in contrast to loads at the “edge of stream,” which relate more closely to loads generated at the source. The portion of the generated load (“edge of stream”) that is delivered to the Bay from each jurisdiction varies depending on the geographic location of the source and the distance and nature of the route that the water and associated loads must travel to reach the Bay.

It is especially important to note that the numbers presented in the charts are expected to change as a result of EPA model changes to be completed and released by EPA in summer 2011. As a result of these changes, if necessary, the State must reserve the right to adjust the point source load allocations and make other necessary adjustments to fulfill the statewide goals of the Phase II WIP. Consequently, implementation plans based on the information presented in the attached charts must be viewed as preliminary and may need to be revised following the release of updated loading information from EPA.

The notes on the first page of each chart provide further explanation of this and several other issues related to the Phase I WIP target loads. The State liaisons will receive training that address the context of these county numbers as well as strategies for meeting reduction goals. In addition, State agency staff will be conducting a series of monthly webinars starting in April to offer additional technical assistance.

The State agencies and the State liaisons look forward to working with all stakeholders as we undertake this very challenging next step in the restoration of Chesapeake Bay. Thank you for your thoughtful and constructive participation in this process.

For more information on the Phase II WIP development process See:
[Maryland’s Phase II WIP Support Website](#)

