Meeting the Challenges Ahead - Bay TMDL and WIPs

Jon M. Capacasa, Director U.S. EPA Region III Water Protection Division

> Chesapeake Bay Commission Meeting September 20, 2013

Overview

- Jurisdictions are on pace to meet their 2012– 2013 2-Year Milestones
 - New Milestones will be set by early 2014
- The trajectory and pace of implementation to meet 2017 goals gets steeper in many respects
- Enhanced implementation rates and new, innovative tools are needed to meet the challenges ahead of us

Evaluation of Progress: EPA's Oversight

- EPA conducts Quarterly Checkin's with Jurisdictions on WIP Progress
- Annual Progress Reports and Evaluations Published Each Spring
 - The Pollution Load Reductions
 - Programmatic progress on milestones and WIPs
- Elevate issues to resolution as well as seek to assist jurisdictions as possible

Bay TMDL and WIPS – Catalysts For Actions on the Ground

- Significant Municipal Wastewater facilities being upgraded and permits enhanced with enforceable limits
 - Point Sources leading the restoration
 - Updated Watershed Permit in Virginia
 - New/expanded wastewater treatment financing mechanisms
 - West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania
- New on-site wastewater treatment regulations
 - Delaware
 - Maryland

Bay TMDL and WIPS: Catalysts for Actions on the Ground

- State-wide stormwater regulations enacted with post-construction requirements
 - DC, DE, VA, MD, PA, NY
 - WV(MS4 areas only)
- Storm water utilities authorized
 - Maryland
 - Pennsylvania

Bay TMDL and WIPS – Catalysts For Action on the Ground

- On-Farm Assessments in Targeted Watersheds (ala Watson Run project) being extended to other watersheds (Pennsylvania)
- Enactment of legislation limiting turf fertilizers
 - Maryland
 - New York
- Agriculture certainty legislation passed/ programs under development
 - Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia

Bay TMDL and WIPs: Catalysts for Actions on the Ground

- Comprehensive on-farm assessments
 - New York has visited more than half of all its producers through its Ag Environmental Management Program
 - Virginia is assessing approximately 800 small AFOs throughout the Commonwealth that are below regulatory thresholds

Bay TMDL and WIPs: Catalysts for Action on the Ground

- A Greening Revolution
 - New "Green Streets/Green Towns/Green Jobs" Program expanding
 - engaging many municipal partners
 - MS4 Storm Water permits with Green Infrastructure commitments (DC, Arlington County, VA and more on the way)
- New urban stormwater practice tracking systems and databases established
 New York, West Virginia, Pennsylvania

Bay TMDL and WIPs: Catalysts for Actions on the Ground

- New York committed to issue Bubble Permits to significant wastewater treatment plants this year
- New nutrient trading regulations in Virginia
- Expansion of Pennsylvania's nutrient credit trading regulations, including stormwater offset policy
- Maryland's Accounting for Growth Policy

Meeting the Challenges Ahead

Maintaining Oversight and Assistance for WIP Implementation

- Ensure acceptable 2-year Milestones that meet the pace (2014-15 and beyond)
 - EPA quarterly check-ins and annual progress reviews
- Assisting Jurisdictions with tools to meet the challenge
 - Chesapeake Bay assistance grants, CAST, etc.

Perform a thorough Mid-Point Assessment

Agriculture

- States and the agricultural community have demonstrated promising progress to date
- The commitments for BMP implementation and pollution reductions ramp up over time to achieve the states' WIP commitments

Agriculture

- For States to stay on track, it's important to take a number of actions in concert such as:
 - Ensure compliance with current state and federal agricultural regulations.
 - Sustain and leverage funding from state, federal, and private sources to support the agricultural community in reaching the BMP implementation goals outlined in the WIPs.

Agriculture

- Advance incentive-based programs to accelerate agricultural conservation (Ag Certainty programs, financial incentive-based programs, etc.)
- Tackle the issue of manure nutrient imbalances in areas dominated by animal operations
 - to manage manure nutrient applications on farm fields, provide options for alternative uses, continue to advance technologies such as Waste to Energy projects

Wastewater

- Financing the installation of enhanced treatment technologies and continued operation and maintenance at municipal wastewater treatment facilities now considered 'non-significant'
- Supporting research for the next generation of emerging treatment technologies
 - focused on lowering costs and additional benefits (e.g., lower greenhouse gas emission, removing chemical contaminants, lower energy consumption)

On-site Systems

- Providing financial assistance for the replacement of existing aging, nonperforming septic systems
- Incentivizing installation of nitrogen-removing systems by making it easier, more cost effective, building up the professional delivery systems for installation and maintenance

Stormwater

- Renewing overdue MS4 Phase 1 and Phase 2 stormwater permits with water quality based provisions
 - Continuing to integrate on-site retention standards
- Enhanced Outreach and Training on innovative stormwater financing mechanisms including, but not limited, to SW utilities and public/private partnerships
 - Need to reduce cost per acre and make urban retrofit practices more sustainable

Trading and Offsets

- Well functioning TMDL Offset Program in each of the Jurisdictions per Appendix S – TMDL
 To preserve the integrity of the TMDL caps
- Strong implementation and accounting programs for jurisdictions using trading

Embrace an Innovation Ethic

- The CBP has been a pioneer of many new practices over time
- Continue to break down barriers to innovation and promote more timely adoption of new practices and verification
- Expanding the tool box and consistent application across the watershed to meet our goals

Meeting the Challenges Ahead Questions?