

# Restore Clean Water Actions

Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

January 6, 2012



**F**ederal Water Quality Two-Year Milestones – The *Executive Order (EO) 13508 Strategy* calls upon federal agencies to join the Chesapeake Bay watershed jurisdictions in establishing two-year milestones, many of which are designed to support the jurisdictions in meeting their water quality milestones (EO Strategy p. 121) leading to the 2025 implementation goal. This first set of federal two-year milestones for water quality applies to calendar years 2012 and 2013. The list below presents the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other federal agencies’ programmatic (non-facility) milestones for the EO 13508 Restore Clean Water goal area. The milestones were selected to represent the activities that have the potential to have significant environmental outcomes, that require significant resources, or that directly support the jurisdictions in meeting Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) commitments.

The federal milestones, along with the jurisdictional milestones, will contribute to the achievement of the outcomes stated in the strategy. **Assuming a steady rate of implementation toward the 2025 goal, the following increments of progress will be achieved for the outcomes by the end of the 2012-2013 milestone period:**

## Anticipated Progress Toward Major Outcomes for Water Quality

Water Quality Outcome	Stream Restoration Outcome	Agricultural Conservation Outcome
<p><b>22.5 percent of goal achieved for implementing nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution reduction actions to achieve final Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocations, as measured through the phase 5.3 watershed model *</b></p> <p><b>- EPA’s portion of air deposition load reduction</b> to tidal surface waters of 316,000 pounds of nitrogen. (18 percent of the required load reductions from 2009 to achieve the 15.7 million pound air deposition load allocation to tidal waters.)</p> <p>* This outcome used 2009 as the baseline year.</p>	<p><b>50 percent of sampled streams rate fair, good or excellent as measured by the Index of Biotic Integrity *</b></p> <p>* The methodology for this outcome does not allow for it to be measured every two years. The earliest that this outcome can be measured is 2017.</p>	<p><b>Apply 540,000 acres of conservation practices in priority watersheds in conjunction with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) High Priority Performance Goals</b></p>

Developed by the Federal Leadership Committee for the Chesapeake Bay



## Federal Water Quality Programmatic Milestones

January 2012 through December 2013

Target Date	Federal Milestones
2012/2013 progress	(EO Strategy page reference where applicable)
<b>TMDL/Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs)</b>	
January 2012 – February 2012	Evaluate and announce federal and jurisdictional <b>2012-2013 two-year milestones</b> (p. 24, EPA)
January 2012 – June 2012	Evaluate Draft and <b>Final Phase 2 WIPs</b> (p. 24, EPA)
June 2012	Assess progress made to implement the <b>May 2009 – December 2011 two-year milestones</b> (p. 24, EPA)
2012/2013 as needed	<b>Technical Amendments to the 2010 Bay TMDL</b> (EPA)
2012	<b>Support jurisdictions' Phase 2 WIP processes</b> (DOD)
2013	<b>Develop and implement a Best Management Practices Operation and Maintenance Policy</b> for each Service (DOD)
May 2013	Provide mid-term evaluation of <b>2012 milestones progress to jurisdictions</b> (EPA)
<b>Agriculture</b>	
2012	Proposed revisions to the national <b>concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) rule</b> (p. 27, EPA)
July 2012	Develop and implement <b>tracking, reporting, and verification mechanisms for voluntary conservation practices</b> and other best management practices installed on agricultural lands (p. 37, EPA/USDA co-lead)
2012	<b>Update the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) Cropland Report</b> for the bay region; increase the spatial resolution of the model results and account for changes in conservation adoption since 2006 (USDA)
2012	Direct up to <b>\$5 million to stimulate innovative conservation approaches, including the development of ecosystem markets</b> in the watershed (USDA)

Target Date	Federal Milestones
2012/2013 progress	(EO Strategy page reference where applicable)
October 2012	<p><b>Release the Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative’s Conservation Desktop and Client Gateway for national use;</b> integrate resource concerns, selected inventory and analysis tools, electronic signature, and geospatial information into conservation planning tools (USDA)</p>
<b>Atmospheric</b> – Rules, Deposition, Allocations	
Significantly reduce nitrogen deposition to the bay and watershed by 2020 (p. 29, EPA)	
January 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cross State Air Pollution Rule</b> - Annual NO<sub>x</sub> control requirements begin (EPA)</li> </ul>
May 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cross State Air Pollution Rule</b> - Seasonal NO<sub>x</sub> control requirements begin (EPA)</li> </ul>
March 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NO<sub>x</sub>SO<sub>x</sub> Secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards finalized</b> (EPA)</li> </ul>
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EPA/DOT 2017–2025 Model Year <b>Light-Duty Vehicle GHG Emissions and CAFÉ Standards</b> final rule (EPA)</li> </ul>
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tier 3 <b>Light-Duty Vehicle Emission and Fuel Standards</b> final rule (criteria and toxic pollutants) (EPA)</li> </ul>
March 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New <b>air deposition modeling</b> for the Chesapeake Bay watershed incorporating the most recent finalized rules with significant NO<sub>x</sub> reductions (EPA)</li> </ul>
<b>Stormwater</b>	
2012/2013	Proposed actions on revisions to the national <b>stormwater rule</b> (p. 27, EPA)
<b>Onsite (Septic) Systems</b>	
June 2013	Develop a <b>model state program</b> with general recommendations for activities to reduce pollution from onsite (septic) systems (p. 29, EPA)
<b>Toxic Contaminants</b>	
November 2012	<p><b>Issue a report</b> summarizing the extent and seriousness of toxic contaminants in the bay and its watershed (p. 37, USGS/FWS/EPA co-lead)</p>

<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Federal Milestones</b> (EO Strategy page reference where applicable)
2012/2013 progress	
November 2012	Conduct and report on <b>assessment of progress</b> on the Chesapeake Bay Basinwide Toxins Reduction and Prevention Strategy (p. 37, EPA/USGS co-lead)
December 2013	Work with DOI (FWS/USGS), the bay states, the District of Columbia and stakeholders to <b>develop toxic contaminant reduction goals</b> (p. 38, EPA)

## Oversight and Enforcement

### Permit and Enforcement Oversight – Stormwater, Wastewater, Agriculture, Trading/Offsets, Air (EPA)

December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Review Chesapeake Bay states' technical standards</b> for nutrient management to ensure that they meet <b>CAFO regulations</b> (p. 26, EPA)</li> </ul>
December 2012 and 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NPDES Permit Reviews</b> – Report annually on number of permits reviewed and objections (EPA)</li> </ul>
December 2012 and 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inspections and Case Development</b> – Report annually on results and/or status (EPA)</li> </ul>

## Monitoring and Science Support

December 2012	Implement year two <b>expansion (20 sites) of the non-tidal monitoring network</b> to support TMDL (p. 40, EPA/USGS co-lead)
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### Evaluate water quality changes and progress to adjust management actions in support of the TMDL/WIPs and milestone progress evaluation (p. 41, EPA/USGS/NOAA co-lead)

December 2012	USGS will issue an <b>annual update of nutrient and sediment trends</b> based on the Chesapeake Bay Program <b>non-tidal</b> monitoring network to assess progress toward reductions (EPA)
December 2012	EPA and NOAA will provide <b>annual updates of trends in estuary</b> monitoring data to assess progress toward water quality standards including using NOAA Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System (CBIBS) data (EPA)

## EPA Grant Support to States and the District of Columbia

2012/2013	Provide <b>financial support to the jurisdictions</b> by maintaining funding, as authorized, through EPA's assistance programs including CWA Section 319, SRF, CBIG and CBRAP (EPA)
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