

RESTORE CLEAN WATER ACTIONS: Federal Water Quality Two-Year Milestones for 2014 - 2015

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 second set of federal two-year milestones for water quality applies to calendar years 2014 and 2015. 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 2014-2015 milestone period:**

Anticipated Progress Toward Major Outcomes for Water Quality	
Water Quality Outcome	Agricultural Conservation Outcome
<p>37.5 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*</p> <p>-EPA’s portion of air deposition load reduction to tidal surface waters of 350,000 pounds of nitrogen. (20 percent of the required load reductions from 2010 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>Apply 540,000 acres of conservation practices in priority watersheds in conjunction with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) High Priority Performance Goals</p>

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Target Date	Programmatic Milestone
TMDL/WIPs	
June 2014	Assess progress made to implement the 2012-2013 two-year milestones. (EPA)
January 2014 – February 2014	Evaluate and announce federal and jurisdictional 2014-2015 two-year milestones. (EPA)

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May 2015	Provide mid-term evaluation of 2014 milestones progress to jurisdictions. (EPA)
June 2015	Assess progress made to implement the 2012-2013 two-year milestones. (EPA)
2014	Design, implement, and provide training for a scenario assessment tool that will be used by federal agencies and other stakeholders to plan BMPs to reduce pollutants from lands and facilities. (EPA)
2015	Deliver the working draft Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model and accompanying Scenario Builder to the CBP Partnership evaluation, and refinement. (EPA)
2015	Deliver the working draft revised Chesapeake Bay Water Quality/Sediment Transport Model (incorporating the filter feeders and the enhanced shallow-water submodels) and Chesapeake Bay Atmospheric Deposition Model to the CBP Partnership evaluation, and refinement. (EPA)
2015	Deliver methods and tools for use by the CBP Partnership in evaluating and better understanding the effects of climate change on water-quality in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and surrounding watershed. (EPA)
October 2014	Secure CBP Partnership approval of the Basinwide BMP Verification Framework. (EPA)
December 2015	Secure CBP Partnership approval of the seven jurisdictions' enhanced BMP tracking, verification, and reporting programs. (EPA)
2014/2015	Continue to participate in and support Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions' MS4 regulation development in order to ensure installations are prepared to incorporate the permit requirements of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. (DoD)
2014/2015	Continue to work with key partners to support watershed implementation plans, update installation land use information and improve available tools for installations to determine/plan for future load allocations and expected load reductions. (DoD)
Agriculture	
2014	NRCS will continue to support voluntary actions by farmers and landowners to improve water quality by providing financial and technical assistance from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) funds. (USDA)

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2015	Pilot the Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative’s Conservation Desktop for national use; integrate resource concerns, selected inventory and analysis tools, electronic signature, and geospatial information into conservation planning tools. (USDA)
2014	Evaluate and assess the methodology/planning and implementation of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative contained in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (110-246). This will include core and supporting conservation practices that address water quality resource concerns. The results will be published and could serve as a model for other multi state estuaries. Continue to pursue the development of regulatory predictability in Bay watershed states. (USDA)
2014/2015	Continue to pursue the development of agricultural certainty programs in Bay watershed states. (USDA)
2014/2015	EPA will provide funding to support a consortium of land grant universities in running expert BMP panels to develop and/or update effectiveness estimates for agricultural practices. (EPA)
2014	USDA will hire a post-doctorate professional who will use the CEAP APEX model to help inform the CBP partnership’s BMP expert panels’ work on estimating the nutrient and sediment reductions from agricultural conservation practices. (USDA)
2014/2015	All Bay jurisdictions are facing similar challenges in initiating water quality trading programs. The Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Network is designed to facilitate interactions between the Chesapeake Bay States and other CIG awardees to help address these challenges and overcome obstacles collectively. (USDA)
2014	USDA and EPA will update the June 2011 Joint Workplan on Chesapeake Bay Conservation Data Collaboration based on progress made to date and USDA’s December 2013 update to the Chesapeake Bay CEAP report. (USDA/EPA)
December 2014 & December 2015	Conduct animal feeding operation (AFO) reviews in two jurisdictions. (EPA)
December 2014 & June 2015	Conduct six AFO/CAFO Program Assessments. (EPA)
June 2015	Conduct two assessments of CAFO permits and associated Nutrient Management Plans. (EPA)

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Atmospheric – Rules, Deposition, Allocations	
2014/2015	Significantly reduce nitrogen deposition to the Bay and watershed by 2020. (EPA)
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop new air deposition modeling for the Chesapeake Bay watershed incorporating the most recent finalized rules with significant NOx reductions. (EPA) Issue tier 3 Light-Duty Vehicle Emission and Fuel Standards final rule (criteria and toxics pollutants). (EPA)
2014	<p>Work with states to develop State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions to reduce NOx emissions. (EPA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist states in developing SIP revisions for nonattainment areas for the 2008 ozone standard. (EPA) Work with states to designate nonattainment areas for the 2012 PM2.5 standard. (EPA) Oversee state implementation of Clean Air Act 129 rules (CISWI, SSI, HMIWI). Once fully implemented, these rules will reduce emissions of NOx, as well as air toxics. (EPA)
Stormwater	
2014/2015	Develop joint workplans with jurisdictions to address stormwater assessment recommendations. (EPA)
2014/2015	Propose actions to strengthen the national stormwater program. (EPA)
2014/2015	Conduct oversight review and comment, per NPDES Memorandum of Agreement, on draft state MS4 permits: to ensure consistency with the Bay TMDL allocations and the level of pollution reduction called for in state WIPs; and to provide enforceable performance measures. (EPA)
2014/2015	Conduct review and comment on select TMDL implementation plans submitted by MS4 jurisdictions to ensure they have a schedule for implementing the necessary structural and non-structural controls and a final date to achieve the applicable WLAs. (EPA)
2014/2015	Develop and implement a Stormwater Best Management Practices Operation and Maintenance Policy to meet permit and water quality requirements. (DoD)

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Onsite (Septic) Systems	
2014/2015	<p>Outreach and technical assistance to Chesapeake Bay States on Model On-Site Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach and support via webinar(s) and/or conference call(s) to the states on topics related to the contents of the document. • Explore/research options for sharing data among states on evaluations of advanced onsite technologies.
Trading/Offsets	
2014	Issue final technical memoranda setting forth EPA expectations on jurisdictions' offset and trading programs. (EPA)
2014	Work with other Federal agencies to build capacity that will support an efficient and robust trading market. (USDA)
Toxic Contaminants	
2014	Facilitate consideration by the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership of the toxic reduction and research outcomes developed in 2013 in the Bay Agreement. (EPA, FWS, USGS)
2014/2015	Develop strategies for addressing toxic contaminant reduction and research outcomes developed in 2013. (EPA, FWS, USGS)
December 2015	Conduct research on occurrence and effects of toxic contaminants on fish and wildlife with an emphasis on chemicals of emerging concern. (USGS, FWS).
Oversight and Enforcement	
December 2014 and 2015	<p>Permit and Enforcement Oversight – Stormwater, Wastewater, Agriculture, Trading/Offsets, Air.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPDES Permit Reviews – Report annually on number of permits reviewed and objections. (EPA)
December 2014 and 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspections and Case Development – Report annually on results and/or status. (EPA)

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Monitoring and Science Support	
December 2014 and 2015	Provide annual updates of water-quality trends in tidal waters (EPA) and watershed (USGS) to assess progress toward nutrient/sediment reductions and water-quality standards. EPA will work with NOAA to utilize information from the Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System (CBIBS) data to enhance tidal results.
December 2014	Develop strategy for Building and Sustaining Integrated Networks (BASIN) for estuary and watershed monitoring programs for the Bay TMDL and associated water-quality standards to 2025 (by Dec 2014). Work with CBP partnership to secure funding to implement strategy (by Dec 2015). (EPA with USGS and states/DC)
December 2015	Conduct project and distribute initial products to assess and explain water-quality changes in support of the Mid-Point Assessment (MPA) of the TMDL. (EPA, USGS, and academic partners working through the Scientific, Technical Assessment, and Report (STAR) team.)
EPA Grant Support to States and the District of Columbia	
2014/2015	Provide financial support to jurisdictions by maintaining funding, as authorized, through EPA's assistance programs including CWA Section 319, SRF, CBIG and CBRAP. (EPA)
2014/2015	Provide financial support to localities and other entities through the Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants and the Small Watershed Grants, as authorized. (EPA)