



EPA Evaluation of West Virginia's 2014-2015 Milestone Progress and 2016-2017 Milestone Commitments to Reduce Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment

Overview

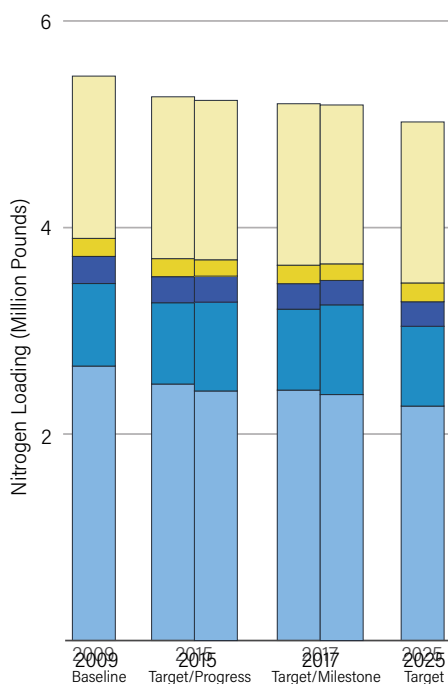
Two-year milestones are short-term objectives under the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (Bay TMDL) accountability framework used to assess progress toward restoration goals while allowing jurisdictions to flexibly adapt their Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) to meet those goals. The Chesapeake Bay Program partnership set restoration goals of having all practices necessary to meet applicable Chesapeake Bay water quality standards in place by 2025 and practices in place by 2017 that would achieve 60 percent of the necessary pollutant reductions compared to 2009.

Pollutant Reduction Progress and Future Targets by Source Sector

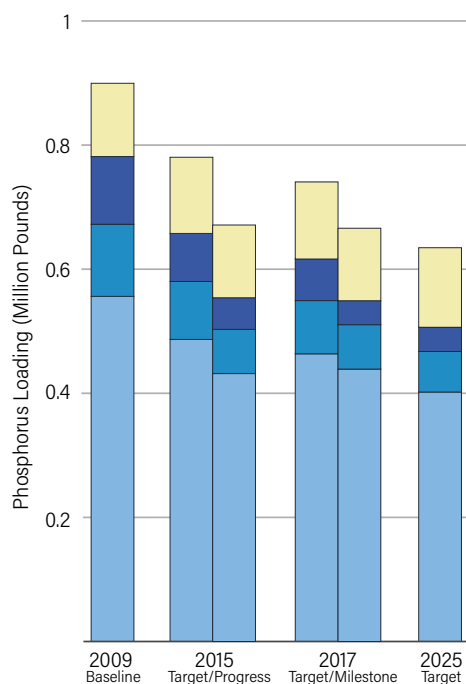
According to the data provided by West Virginia, the state achieved its state-wide 2015 targets for nutrients and sediment. West Virginia has already met its 2025 target for sediment based upon the current Chesapeake Bay Program partnership simulation tools.

Based on West Virginia's anticipated reductions for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment during the 2016-2017 milestone period, West Virginia is on track to meet its state-wide nutrient and sediment targets for 2017. West Virginia has already achieved its 2017 targets for phosphorus for each source sector. For nitrogen, West Virginia is not on track in the Urban/Suburban Stormwater sector to achieve the 2025 restoration goal.

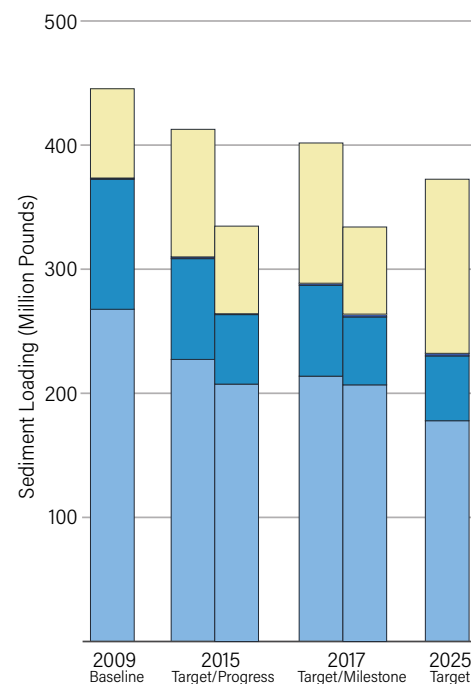
Nitrogen Loads and Goals



Phosphorus Loads and Goals



Sediment Loads and Goals



■ Agriculture
 ■ Urban Runoff
 ■ Wastewater
 ■ Septic
 ■ Forest*

*Forest includes other sources

For additional information on pollution reduction progress, commitments, and BMP see <http://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/clean-water/water-quality/watershed-implementation-plans>



Images by Chesapeake Bay Program

2016 Oversight Status

- Ongoing
- Enhanced
- Backstop

Agriculture

Ongoing Oversight

Urban/Suburban

Ongoing Oversight

Wastewater

Trading/Offsets

Ongoing Oversight

2014–2015 Milestone Progress and 2016–2017 Milestone Review

The EPA review of progress toward meeting 2014-2015 milestones shows West Virginia has made enough progress in the Agriculture and Wastewater sectors to ensure implementation is occurring and is on track for meeting its load reduction commitments. West Virginia's anticipated reductions for the 2016-2017 milestone period should keep it on track to meet the 2017 restoration target. Water quality monitoring data from USGS confirms nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment trends are improving across the nine streams and rivers in West Virginia's Potomac watershed.

Strengths

- Met the vast majority of Agricultural and Wastewater programmatic and numeric milestones
- Added programmatic milestones related to enhancing BMP tracking, verification and reporting program in the Agriculture and Urban/Suburban Stormwater sectors
- Committed to increasing implementation of priority BMPs, such as cover crops and nutrient management plans
- Jefferson County, the City of Harper's Ferry, and the City of Charles Town adopted revised ordinances to better manage Urban/Suburban Stormwater
- Reissued MS4 General Permit on June 11, 2014 with an effective date of July 11, 2014
- Committed to reissue Construction Stormwater General Permit by December 31, 2017
- Four significant wastewater treatment plants – Pilgrim's Pride Corporation (2), town of Moorefield and Charles Town – upgraded or combined to be consistent with the assumptions and requirements of applicable Bay TMDL wasteload allocations
- Committed to update and maintain Offsets tracking and accountability system in accordance with EPA requirements

Shortfalls

- Did not meet the state's Urban/Suburban Stormwater sector nitrogen target for 2014-2015 and is not on track to achieve the Urban/Suburban Stormwater target for nitrogen in 2016-2017

Issues to Address

- Implement more aggressive programmatic milestones in Urban/Suburban Stormwater sector to close the nitrogen gap
- Develop quantifiable goals associated with Urban BMP implementation in 2016-2017 milestone period

Potential Federal Actions and Assistance

EPA will upgrade the West Virginia Agriculture sector to "Ongoing Oversight." EPA will maintain ongoing oversight for West Virginia urban/suburban stormwater but will continue to monitor West Virginia's progress in closing the nitrogen gap in the 2016-2017 milestone period. EPA will maintain "Ongoing Oversight" of the West Virginia sectors for Wastewater and Offsets and Trading.