



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

Overview

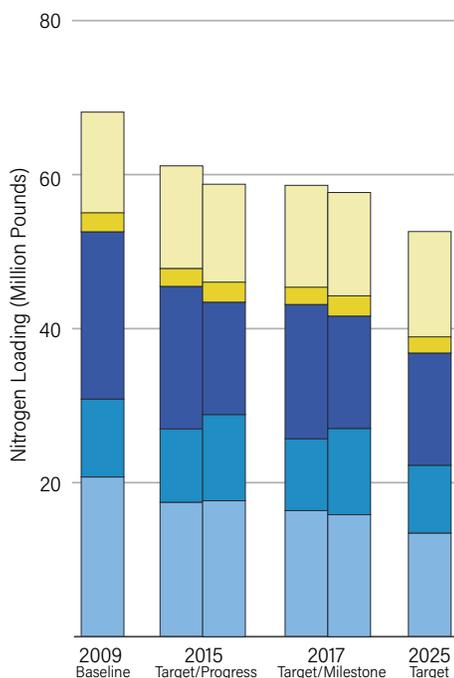
Two-year milestones are short-term objectives under the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (Bay TMDL) accountability framework used to assess progress toward restoration goals while allowing the Bay jurisdictions to flexibly adapt their Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) to meet those goals. 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

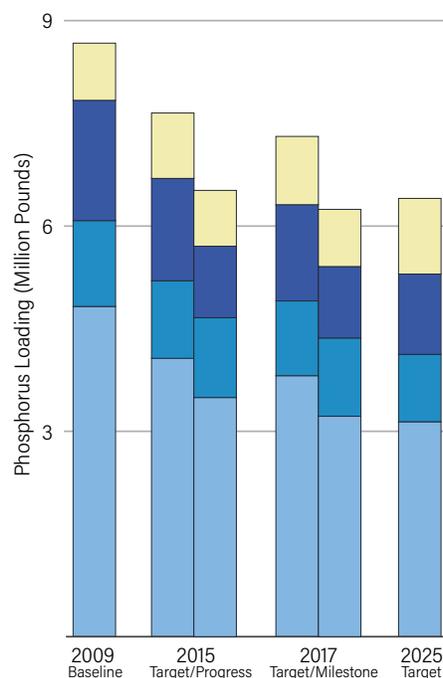
According to the data provided by Virginia, the state achieved its state-wide 2015 milestone targets for nitrogen and phosphorus, but did not meet its state-wide target for sediment as a result of being off track for sediment in the Agriculture and Urban/Suburban Stormwater sectors. Reductions in the Wastewater sector remain ahead of schedule for all three pollutants.

Based on Virginia's anticipated reductions for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment during the 2016-2017 milestone period, Virginia is on track to meet all its state-wide targets for 2017. However, Virginia is off track in the Urban/Suburban Stormwater sector for all three pollutants.

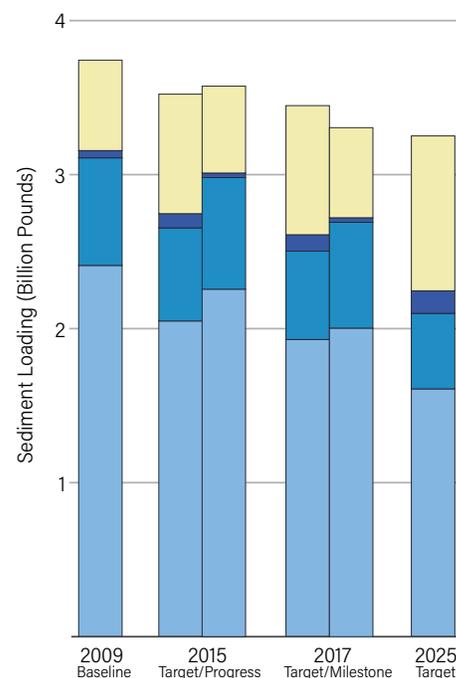
Nitrogen Loads and Goals



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

Enhanced Oversight

Wastewater

Ongoing Oversight

Trading/Offsets

Ongoing Oversight

2014–2015 Milestone Progress and 2016–2017 Milestone Review

The EPA review of progress toward meeting 2014–2015 milestones shows Virginia achieved most of its numeric milestones. Virginia met its state-wide targets, in part, because of greater than expected wastewater reductions. Additional emphasis on improving implementation in Agriculture, Urban/Suburban Stormwater and Septic sectors will be needed to stay on track to meet its WIP and Bay TMDL commitments by 2025. Virginia's anticipated reductions for the 2016–2017 milestone period should keep it on track to meet the 2017 target of having practices in place to achieve 60 percent of reductions necessary for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment.

Strengths

- Continued providing advanced funding for livestock exclusion through FY15, budgeted additional funding for stream exclusion in Chesapeake Bay watershed from federal Bay Grants (\$3.5M) and state funds (\$3M), and will add \$17.5M for FY16-17; \$1.45M of USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant funds also available for livestock stream exclusion in targeted sub-watersheds
- Committed to track and report the progress of 100% funded stream exclusion initiative, as well as advocating for funds to implement additional applications for this practice
- Promoted sign up for Resource Management Program (RMP) programs, with goal of getting RMPs on at least 10,000 agricultural acres per year
- Increased number of Nutrient management Plans (NMPs) on unpermitted beef operations and small dairies, with goal of 15,000 new acres on small farms, including 20 new NMPs on small dairy farms per year
- Committed to project poultry house construction and plan to offset any increase in nutrients
- Committed to initiate reissuance of Phase II MS4, Construction and Industrial General Permits

Shortfalls

- As stated in MS4 permit fact sheets permittees will have three permit cycles to achieve the Bay TMDL goals; EPA expects the Commonwealth to revisit strategies in its Phase III WIP to ensure practices are in place by 2025 to achieve applicable water quality standards across all sectors

Issues to Address

- Increase implementation of priority agricultural practices resulting in greater nitrogen and phosphorus reductions in order for the Agriculture sector to stay on track to meet the 2017 targets
- EPA expects to see more aggressive implementation of practices to manage Urban and Suburban Stormwater

Potential Federal Actions and Assistance

EPA will maintain "Enhanced Oversight" for Virginia Urban/Suburban Stormwater and will continue to monitor Virginia's progress in closing the nutrients and sediment gap in the 2016–2017 milestone period.. EPA will maintain "Ongoing Oversight" of the Virginia sectors for Agriculture, Wastewater and Offsets and Trading.