



EPA Evaluation of West Virginia's 2012-2013 Milestone Progress and 2014-2015 Milestone Commitments to Reduce Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment



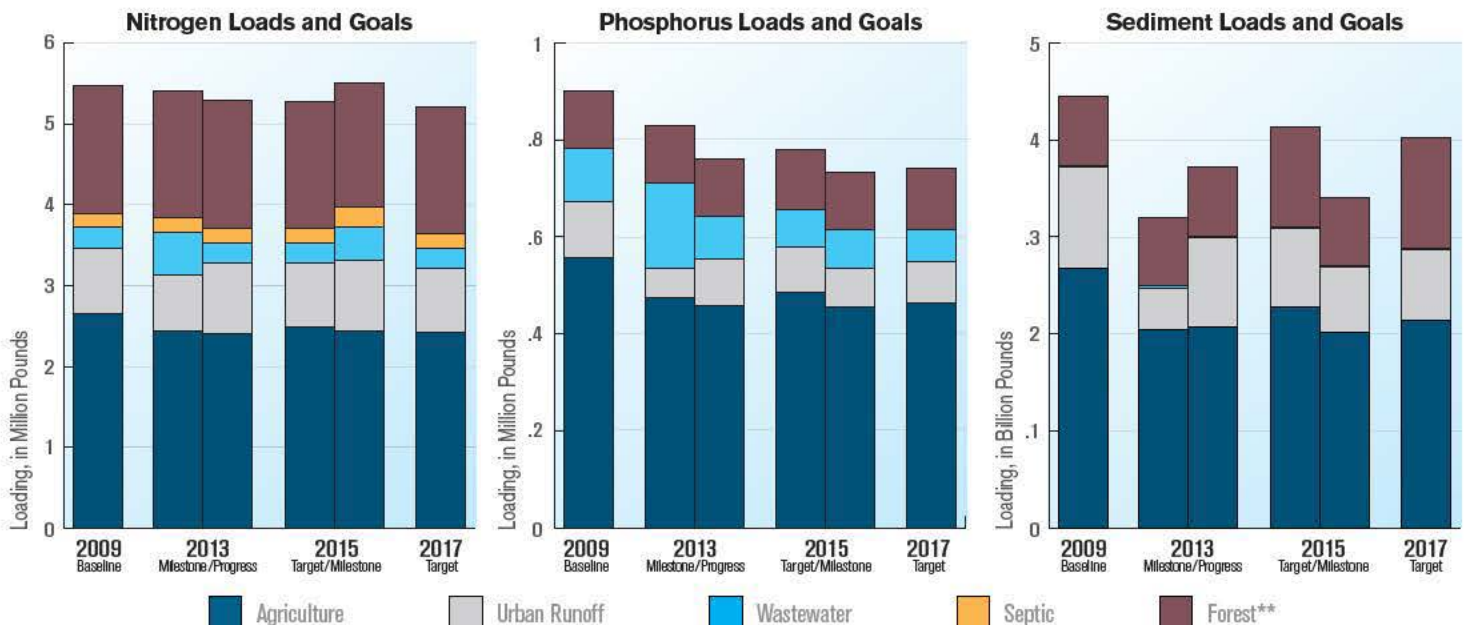
Overview

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. When fully implemented, the seven WIPs will ensure all practices necessary to meet water quality standards in the Chesapeake Bay will be in place by 2025. By 2017, jurisdictions should have practices in place that would achieve 60 percent of 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 2013 milestone targets for nitrogen and phosphorus. West Virginia has already met its 2025 target for sediment. West Virginia finished the 2012-2013 milestone period nearly 125,000 pounds ahead of schedule for nitrogen reductions and nearly 70,000 pounds ahead of schedule for phosphorus reductions.

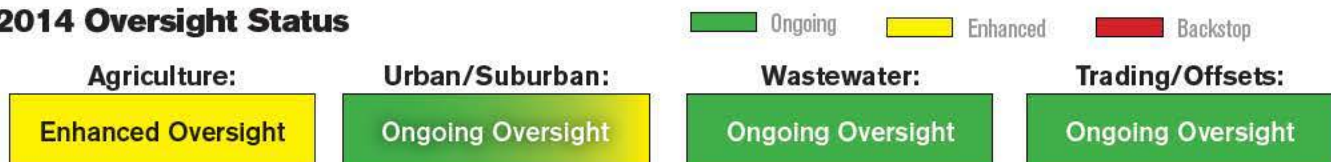
West Virginia's 2014-2015 milestone wastewater strategy and best management practice (BMP) commitments for other source sectors will reduce phosphorus by nearly 167,000 pounds and decrease sediment by more than 104 million pounds by the end of 2015, compared to the 2009 baseline. However, nitrogen is expected to increase by more than 44,000 pounds, and additional reductions are needed to ensure the 2017 target for nitrogen will be achieved. West Virginia expects to overcome the nitrogen gap by implementing its WIP commitment to upgrade all significant wastewater plants and achieve compliance with 2025 wastewater goals by 2017.



** Forest includes other sources

Note: 2013 milestones and 2013 progress are based on 2010 conditions. For additional information on pollution reduction progress, commitments, and BMP see <http://stat.chesapeakebay.net/milestones>

2014 Oversight Status



2012-2013 Milestone Progress and 2014-2015 Milestone Review

The EPA review of progress toward meeting 2012-2013 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 2014-2015 milestone period should keep it on track to meet the 2017 target of having practices in place to achieve 60 percent of necessary phosphorus and sediment reductions. However, projected reductions for nitrogen are behind schedule.

Strengths

- Met the vast majority of their agricultural and wastewater programmatic and loading milestones
- Added programmatic milestones related to enhancing BMP tracking, verification and reporting program
- Included programmatic milestones to review and correct data on urban and agricultural BMPs previously reported
- Implemented new nutrient management rule and incorporated updated Phosphorus Index into guidance for all federally cost-shared nutrient management plans
- Completed and released new statewide stormwater management guidance manual
- Jefferson County and City of Martinsburg adopted revised ordinances to better manage urban/suburban stormwater
- Will conduct a comprehensive assessment of new growth and nutrient loadings for stormwater by September 2015
- Will reissue the MS4 general permit by June 30, 2014
- Built Moorefield Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant to accept flows from two other significant facilities. It is expected to achieve compliance with its individual wasteload allocations starting in 2015
- Will update and maintain offsets tracking and accountability system in accordance with EPA requirements

Shortfalls

- West Virginia did not meet their sediment 2012-2013 loading milestones

Issues to Address

- Complete comprehensive assessment of new growth and nutrient loadings by September 30, 2015
- Continue implementation of CAFO program and strengthen voluntary programs in unregulated areas
- Provide specific outcomes resulting from agricultural education and outreach efforts
- Follow through on Phase II WIP contingencies starting in 2015 and implement them fully by 2017 if the comprehensive assessment of new growth shows urban stormwater goals will not be achieved

Potential Federal Actions and Assistance

EPA will maintain "Ongoing Oversight" of the West Virginia sectors for Wastewater and Offsets and Trading. EPA will also maintain "Enhanced Oversight" for the West Virginia Agriculture sector. EPA may downgrade the West Virginia Urban/Suburban Stormwater sector from "Ongoing" to "Enhanced Oversight" pending demonstration of additional actions to reduce increased loads from the urban baseline if the comprehensive assessment shows urban stormwater goals will not be achieved.

EPA is supporting trading and offset tracking systems and the jurisdictions' development/enhancement of their BMP verification programs. EPA will further work to enhance federal partners' participation in the milestone commitment process.

For the full details of EPA's evaluation of West Virginia's 2012-2013 milestone progress and 2014-2015 milestone commitments, please see [West Virginia's Full Evaluation Report](#).