



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

Overview

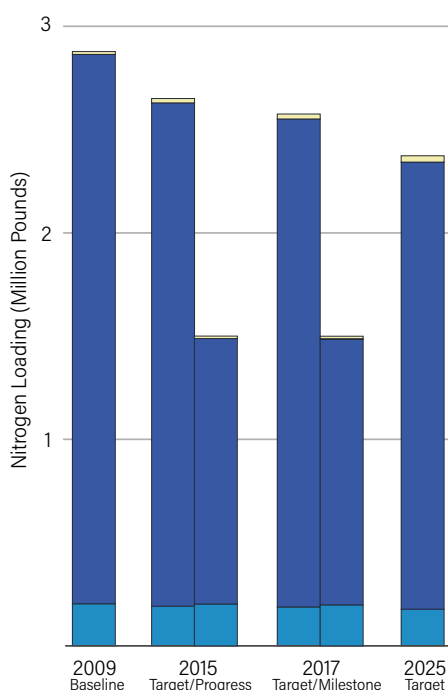
Two-year milestones are short-term objectives under the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (Bay TMDL) accountability framework used to assess progress toward restoration goals while allowing jurisdictions to flexibly adapt their Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) to meet those goals. The Chesapeake Bay Program partnership set restoration goals of having all practices necessary to meet applicable Chesapeake Bay water quality standards in the Chesapeake Bay 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

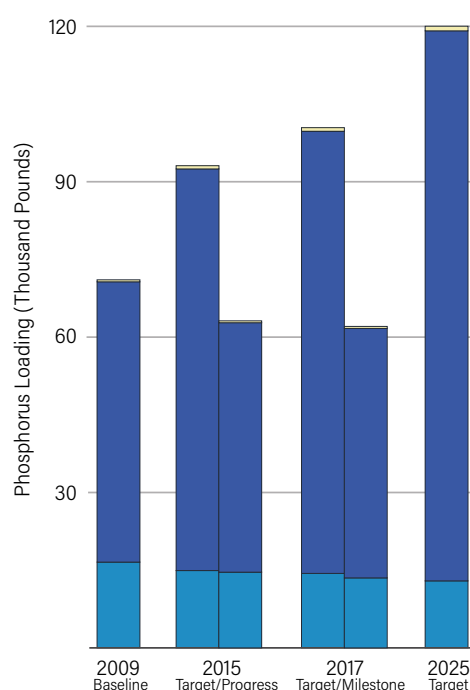
According to the data provided by the District of Columbia, the District achieved its District-wide 2015 load reduction targets for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment. This is largely due to nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment reductions from the Wastewater sector. The 2015 progress also shows the District is on track to meet its Urban/Suburban Stormwater sector load target for phosphorus but is not on track to meet its targets for nitrogen or sediment.

Based on the District's anticipated loads for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment during the 2016-2017 milestone period, the District is on track to meet its 2017 stormwater targets for phosphorus, but will miss the stormwater targets for nitrogen and sediment. Looking at all sectors combined, the District is anticipated to be on track to meet its 2025 targets for nitrogen, sediment and phosphorus.

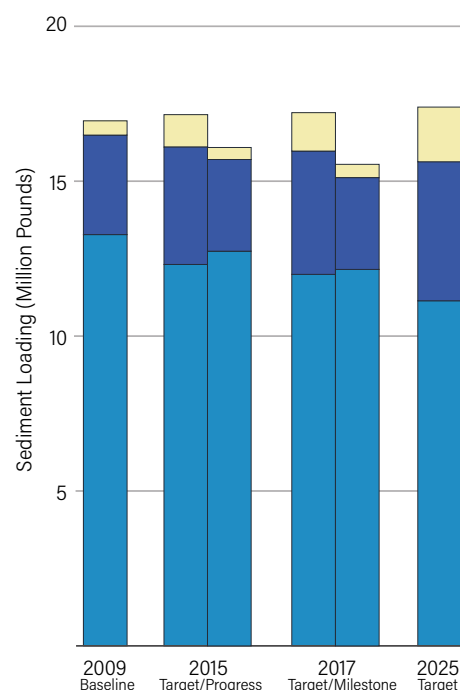
Nitrogen Loads and Goals



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>



2016 Oversight Status

- Ongoing
- Enhanced
- Backstop

Agriculture

Not Applicable

Urban/Suburban

Ongoing 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 the District of Columbia has made enough progress in the Urban/Suburban Stormwater and Wastewater sectors to ensure implementation is occurring, although not all of its milestone commitments were achieved. The District of Columbia will need to continue to place additional emphasis on improving implementation in the Urban/Suburban Stormwater sector to stay on track to meet its WIP and Bay TMDL commitments. The District of Columbia’s anticipated reductions for the 2016–2017 milestone period should keep it on track to meet its 2017 restoration targets. The District is anticipated to meet the 2025 targets through implementation of the Clean Rivers Project and upgrades at Blue Plains WWTP.

Strengths

- Completed enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) upgrades at Blue Plains WWTP
- Successfully developed and issued inspections and maintenance protocols for the District owned and operated onsite retention practices
- Completed the citywide online stormwater tracking tool
- Installed 292,068 square feet of green roofs in Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015
- Committed to support additional green roof installation through direct investment and subsidies
- Committed to inspect all facilities within Multi-sector General Permit (MSGP) area based upon NPDES compliance strategy

Shortfalls

- Did not meet retrofit provisions within the MS4 permit; appears to be less than 25% complete with the MS4 permit retrofit requirement

Issues to Address

- Develop schedule and anticipated timeframes for completion and implementation of revised MS4 permit
- Accelerate implementation of retrofit requirements consistent with MS4 permit
- Develop fertilizer management demonstration project to document reductions
- Measure progress toward the 2025 WIP goal for urban tree canopy

Potential Federal Actions and Assistance

EPA will maintain “Ongoing Oversight” of the District of Columbia programs for all sectors. EPA will continue to work with the District Department of the Energy and Environment (DDOEE) and federal signatories to the Federal Stormwater Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)¹ to resolve issues raised related to interpretation of federal commitments as part of the District’s WIP and to reiterate the Executive Order 13508 directive and federal agencies’ commitment to lead by example.

EPA will closely monitor any potential modifications to the Clean Rivers Project Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) to mitigate Combined Stormwater Overflows (CSO) and assess potential implications on schedule and loads to the Chesapeake Bay. As part of the approved District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water) LTCP, EPA will work with DC Water and DDOEE to track and report CSO implementation activities and to ensure CSO loads remain within the caps established by the Bay TMDL and the Blue Plains permit and to assure timely implementation and reporting.

¹: The DC Federal Stormwater MOU commits the General Services Administration, National Park Service, Department of Defense and EPA to enhanced stormwater management by sharing best practices and approaches to stormwater management.