

## **A Note to the WIP Teams Regarding the Availability of the Local Allocations**

Dear WIP Teams:

Due to an unforeseen delay by EPA regarding the release of Phase II final target allocations, the State will not be providing local allocations on August 15, as originally planned. The EPA Regional Administrator has extended the deadline for submitting our draft Phase II WIP to December 15, and subsequently, their own comment deadline to February 15, 2012.

In addition, the EPA has yet to deliver the 2010 Progress Runs which define the additional reductions required to close the loading gap and meet the allocations, and provide the baseline from which the reductions to meet the final targets are measured. Both the 2010 progress and allocations are needed to conduct the load WIP reduction analysis.

With the many changes of the watershed model used to develop the allocations, we are making every effort to ensure that we provide accurate, reliable and complete information to our WIP teams for decision making. The State seeks to err on the side of delivering complete, accurate numbers the first time, and is continuing to press EPA to ensure we have time to do what is necessary.

Pending receipt of the 2010 Progress Run, we plan to provide these allocations by the end of August, commensurate with the 2-week delay and extension from EPA.

The State of Maryland is aware of the concerns from the localities regarding time to develop the strategies and working diligently – via webinars, training and the MAST tool -- to simplify, streamline and facilitate strategy development.

In the meantime, the WIP teams should rest assured that Maryland will remain flexible, with the ability to make changes at any time during this process, including after the final WIP is submitted. This flexibility is limited only by the need to meet water quality standards, so any changes must achieve the same or greater nutrient reductions.

Thank you for your understanding and continued cooperation.