

BAY PROGAM UPDATES

Climate Change and Conowingo WIP Developments

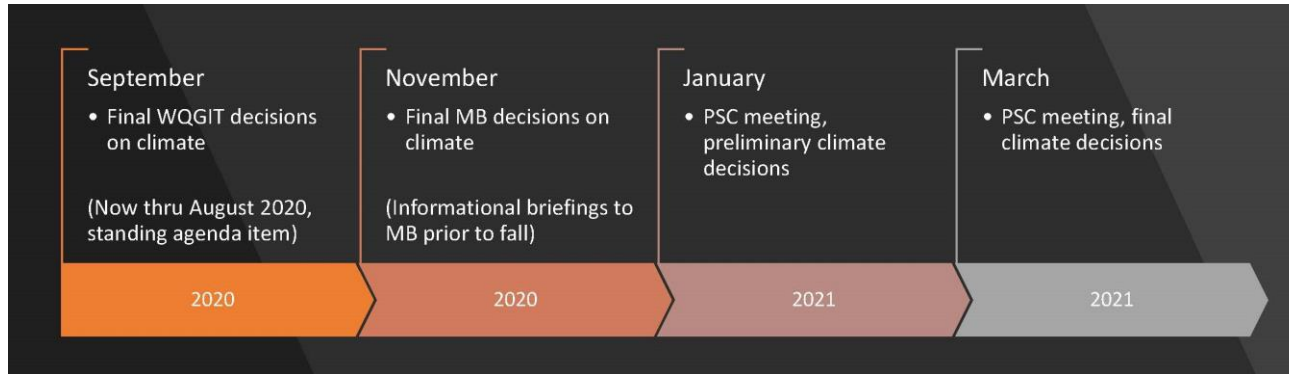
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WRTC
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Outline

- Climate Change:
 - Water Quality GIT recommendation
- Conowingo WIP
 - Not yet issued
 - Scope and financing still unresolved
- PA litigation developments

Climate Change Schedule



Courtesy of
nvrc
Northern Virginia Regional Commission

Final decision likely to be made by PSC in early 2021, although a consensus has emerged from the Water Quality GIT

Bay Program Climate Change approach

Water Quality GIT recommendations as of Sept. 10

- For now, focus just on meeting the impacts of climate change through 2025
- Base decision on impact of climate change on DO attainment in deeper waters, rather than open waters.
 - Preliminary modeling results are showing increased non-attainment in shallower waters due to climate change, but further work is needed before making any decisions
- Choose allocation option that with least impact on most states (“Watershed Loads First”)
- Adopt a narrative approach to meeting climate change impacts by 2035

Bay Program Climate Change approach

Proposed additional reductions beyond the Phase III Planning Targets to account for the effects of climate change in millions of pounds per year.

State	TN			TP		
	Dec 2017 PSC	L1st Climate increase	Adjusted L1st Proposed	Dec 2017 PSC	L1st Climate increase	Adjusted L1st Proposed
DC	0.006	0.006	0.007	0.001	0.001	0.001
DE	0.397	0.036	0.039	0.006	0.003	0.003
MD	2.194	1.061	1.142	0.117	0.111	0.111
NY	0.400	0.699	0.399	0.015	0.044	0.044
PA	4.135	1.683	1.811	0.143	0.095	0.095
VA	1.722	1.476	1.589	0.187	0.337	0.337
WV	0.236	-0.054	0.000	0.017	0.009	0.009
Total	9.089	4.908	4.986	0.485	0.599	0.599

Water Quality GIT recommendation

“Dec 2017 PSC” numbers are the increases in load reductions required by 2025 considered by the PSC in December 2017, prior to model adjustments. “L1st Climate increase” are the increases in load reductions required by 2025 due to climate change based on the allocation method recommended by the Water Quality GIT. “Adjusted L1st Proposed” are the increases in load reductions required by 2025 based on a “special case” adjustment for New York.

Bay Program Climate Change Beyond 2025

- Water Quality GIT looked at 2035 numbers
- Will be re-evaluated in 2025
- Currently, the estimated impacts by 2035 appear to about twice as high as estimated impacts by 2025

Proposed additional reductions beyond the Phase III Planning Targets to account for the effects of climate change in millions of pounds per year.

State	TN		TP	
	Adjusted 2025	2035	Adjusted 2025	2035
	L1st	L1st	L1st	L1st
	Proposed	Climate Estimate	Proposed	Climate Estimate
DC	0.007	0.007 - 0.046	0.001	0.001 - 0.006
DE	0.039	0.112 - 0.138	0.003	0.007 - 0.007
MD	1.142	1.905 - 2.017	0.111	0.235 - 0.242
NY	0.399	1.191 - 1.202	0.044	0.087 - 0.087
PA	1.811	3.472 - 3.618	0.095	0.278 - 0.287
VA	1.589	3.009 - 3.151	0.337	0.733 - 0.745
WV	0.000	0.299 - 0.308	0.009	0.052 - 0.053
Total	4.986	10.187 - 10.288	0.599	1.404 - 1.416

Preliminary numbers subject to change

“L1st Climate increase” are the increases in load reductions required by 2025 due to climate change based on the allocation method recommended by the Water Quality including adjustments for the NY special case. “2035 L1st Climate Estimate” are the increases in load reductions required by 2035 due to climate change under two different allocation options.

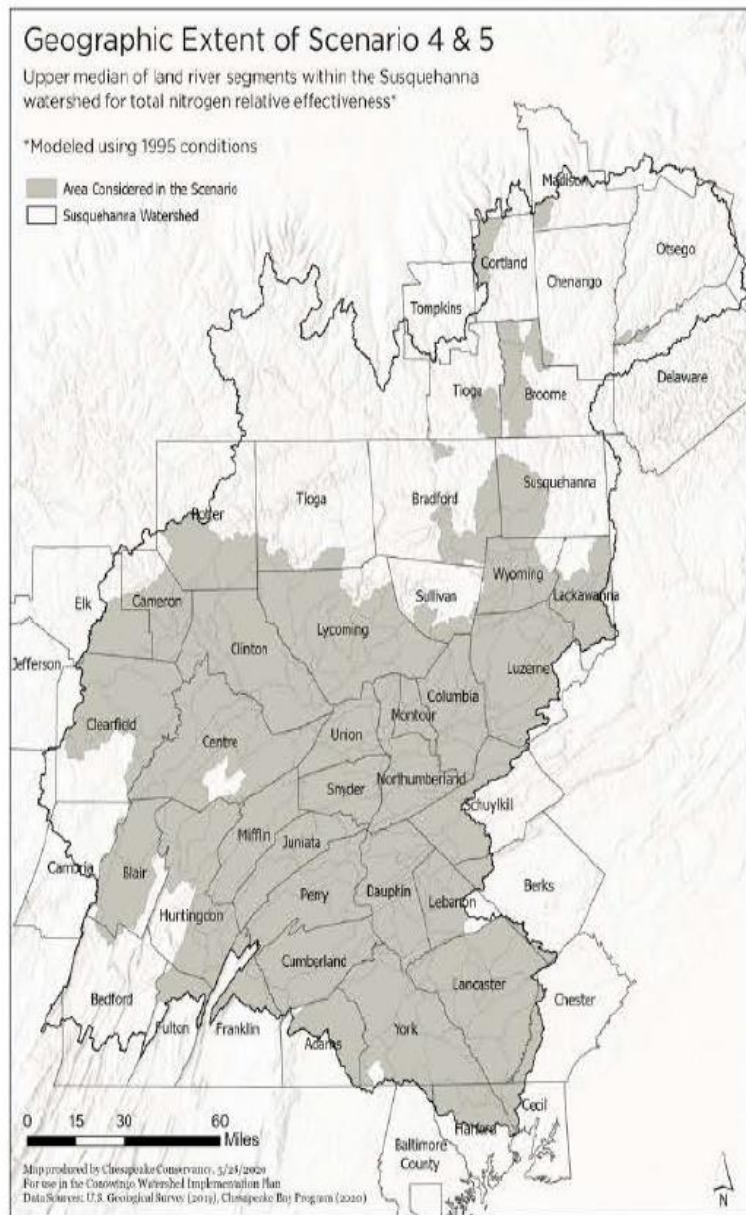
Conowingo WIP

- Designed to address dynamic equilibrium conditions in lower Susquehanna dam systems
 - Approximate impact: 6 million pounds of TN, 0.26 million pounds of TP
- Original schedule called for final Conowingo WIP to be issued by June 2020
 - Issue date yet to be established
- Financing Strategy supposed to be issued in March 2021
 - Unclear if that will have local impact through diversion of funds

Conowingo WIP Development

Current consensus

- Based on the most effective basins for nitrogen reduction in the Susquehanna basin
 - No BMPs outside the Susquehanna
- Implementation by jurisdiction: PA – 95 %, MD- 2 %, NY – 2 %
- Estimated cost = \$51 million/year



PA Issue

- PA WIP III plan falls short of state's assigned reduction target (would achieve 75 % of the reduction target for nitrogen)
- Dana Aunkst, EPA's CBPO Director, has said achievement of 2025 planning target reductions is "aspirational," not enforceable
- CBF announced Sept. 10 that it is suing EPA for failure "to require Pennsylvania and New York to develop plans to sufficiently reduce pollution"
 - Anne Arundel County, the Maryland Waterman's Association and two other plaintiffs join lawsuit
- Reportedly, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and the District of Columbia will file similar separate lawsuit

COG Bay Forum Discussion Points

- Climate Change and Conowingo WIP allocation decisions should be reasonable and fair
 - A realistic approach to setting climate change nutrient reduction targets and developing the Conowingo WIP will account for affordability and a rate of implementation progress that is feasible

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- Phase III WIP funding in MD, DC and VA should not be diverted to support the Conowingo WIP
 - If these new allocations result in nutrient reduction targets greater than a particular state can currently handle, the best solution is to give that state more time and more federal resources to accomplish the increased goal

For More Information

See:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/41500/wqgit_climate_decision_narrative_v.09.03.2020.pdf

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/january_2020_modeling_workgroup_quarterly_review

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/modeling_workgroup_december_inperson_meeting

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/40316/20200121_-_bhatt_-_uswg_-_chesapeake_bay_program_phase_6_climate_change_model_initial_findings.pdf