



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Martin O'Malley
Governor

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Secretary

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

Kathy M. Kinsey
Deputy Secretary

September 23, 2011

Dear Elected Official:

We are pleased to advise you that, after consultation with the Governor, the Bay Cabinet has agreed that Maryland will extend the time for submission of final, approved local implementation plans to July 2, 2012.

Maryland is still required to meet Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) deadlines, and we will submit a draft Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) in mid-December and a final plan in March 2012 in accordance with the original schedule. We request you provide any draft strategies and funding proposals that you have ready in time to incorporate into the State submissions to EPA. The Phase II WIP will be designed to meet the basin-specific allocations assigned to Maryland by EPA.

EPA will use the final Phase II WIP submitted in March to determine whether any modifications to the TMDL allocations are necessary. State agencies will continue to work closely with your staff after the March submittal to ensure that final approved local plans will meet water quality standards. As necessary, and if consistent with public comments on EPA's modifications of the TMDL allocations, local plans will be used to modify Maryland's WIP after July, 2012. My staff will be sending to your liaisons a detailed revised schedule.

We sincerely appreciate the efforts and patience of local jurisdictions during this protracted planning process. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 410-537-4187 or bsummers@mde.state.md.us, or Richard Eskin at 410-537-3572 or reskin@mde.state.md.us. Thank you for your continuing interest and participation in the Phase II WIP process.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Secretary

cc: John R. Griffin, Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Earl F. Hance, Secretary, Maryland Department of Agriculture
Richard E. Hall, Secretary, Maryland Department of Planning