

Notice of Public Meetings --Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will host five public meetings on Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy. The meetings will be held as follows:

- March 17, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the DEP Northeast Regional Office, Susquehanna Room, 2 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre
- March 22, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lebanon County Conservation District, Penn State Extension Meeting Room, 2120 Cornwall Road, Lebanon
- March 23, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Adams County Conservation District, Penn State Extension Meeting Room, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg
- March 30, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the DEP Northcentral Regional Office, Goddard Conference Room, 208 West Third Street, Williamsport

At the meetings, DEP staff will review the recently published Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy, answer questions on the development of the Strategy, and seek public input on Strategy implementation. The Strategy identifies a suite of nonpoint source Best Management Practices (BMPs) and point source management approaches that would be necessary to meet new Chesapeake Bay water quality goals adopted in 2004. The Strategy calls for reducing nutrient and sediment loads to Pennsylvania streams and the Chesapeake Bay from a variety of sources such as agriculture, wastewater treatment plants, urban stormwater and septic systems. For the first time, Pennsylvania's Tributary Strategy is built upon 13 individual strategies for watersheds in the Susquehanna and Potomac basins. The strategy identifies the full range of activities needed, regardless of their cost, so planning can begin for the new initiatives that will be needed to support Tributary Strategy implementation.

With the signing of the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement, Pennsylvania made a commitment to help remove the Chesapeake Bay from the federal Clean Water Act's list of impaired waters by 2010. Pennsylvania is critical to this effort as 50 percent of the fresh water to the Chesapeake Bay flows from the Susquehanna River. The formation of watershed restoration partnerships that benefit Pennsylvania local waters and the Bay is the foundation upon which Pennsylvania will build support for Strategy implementation. Key partners include Conservation Districts, Agricultural organizations, Watershed organizations, Engineers, Municipalities, and Industrial and municipal point source facilities.

Copies of Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Reduction Strategy may be obtained by calling Denise Caudill at 717-787-5267, sending email to dcaudill@state.pa.us, or on the Internet at www.dep.state.pa.us, Keyword "Chesapeake Bay." Copies may also be obtained by writing:

Water Planning Office -- Attention: Tributary Strategy
Department of Environmental Protection
10th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 8555
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8555

Questions concerning these meetings should be directed to Patricia A. Buckley, Water Planning Office, P.O. Box 2063, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063, (717) 772-1675, e-mail at pbuckley@state.pa.us.

Persons with a disability who require accommodations to attend the meeting should contact the Department at (717) 705-2425 or through the Pennsylvania AT&T Relay Services at (800) 654-5984 (TDD) to discuss how the Department may accommodate their needs.

KATHLEEN A. MCGINTY

Secretary