



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Bureau of Watershed Management

April 27, 2011

Re: Bay Farm - 100 Site Visits and Voluntary BMP Collection

Dear Conservation District Manager:

Thank you for your Special Project and Bay Technician Project proposals. They are currently being reviewed and are expected to be presented at the May 17 State Conservation Commission (SCC) meeting.

Regarding the requirements for districts receiving Chesapeake Bay Technician agreements as on February 10, 2011, this letter offers some clarification of these requirements:

1. DEP is requiring that all districts that receive funds for Chesapeake Bay Technician positions conduct a minimum of 100 agricultural outreach / educational site visits per funded Chesapeake Bay Technician. The purpose of these outreach / educational site visits will be to inform agricultural operations of their obligations under Chapter 102 (agricultural erosion and sediment control) and Chapter 91 (manure management planning). **These outreach / educational site visits are as stated, outreach and education on the regulatory requirements of agricultural operations.** A form / instructions / guidance will be provided when available, but prior to the July 1, 2011 beginning of the contract and Commonwealth fiscal year.
2. DEP is requiring that in addition to the 100 agricultural outreach / educational site visits per funded Chesapeake Bay Technician, the district must provide a plan indicating how they can inform all county agricultural operations about their obligations under Chapter 102 and Chapter 91. The outreach plan should simply answer the following question – “How does the district plan to communicate the regulatory requirements to all agricultural operations?” **An outreach plan shall be submitted prior to or with the first quarter invoices for reimbursements under the Chesapeake Bay Program.**
3. DEP is requiring that all districts that receive funds for Chesapeake Bay Technician positions collect and submit data regarding non-point source best management practices (BMP) that were implemented without state or federal funding, sometimes described as “voluntary” BMPs. **DEP will issue instructions on the type of BMPs to be reported, and the mechanism for providing this data, once it is developed.** Pennsylvania is working with NRCS, NACD, and others to develop a Chesapeake Bay Wide Protocol / Strategy. **DEP will provide these instructions when they are available.** At that time, DEP will request that the district develop and submit a BMP data collection plan that outlines how the district will obtain the requested information. Until that guidance is available, there is no expectation or requirement that Chesapeake Bay Technicians or

districts receiving Technician contracts provide voluntary BMP data to DEP or engage in voluntary BMP collection efforts.

Thank you for your time and commitment to improving local water quality and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. If you should have any questions on the above guidance, please feel free to contact myself, your Chesapeake Bay Field Representative, or the DEP Central Office Conservation District Support Section Chesapeake Bay Staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stu Taglang", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Steven Wm. Taglang, Chief
Division of Conservation Districts and
Nutrient Management