



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Office of Water Programs

# Chesapeake Bay Strategy Update

May 20, 2016

**Dial-in number for audio: 1-650-479-3208**

**Access code: 647 893 358**

**WebEx Technical Support: 866-229-3239**

Tom Wolf, Governor

John Quigley, Secretary

# ▶ Agenda

- Introductions: Neil Shader, DEP Press Secretary
- Remarks: DEP Secretary John Quigley
- Remarks: Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding
- Progress Made & Timeline: DEP Deputy Secretary Dana Aunkst
- Expectations and Roles: Lee McDonnell, DEP
- Funding: Nicki Kasi, DEP
- Questions

# ▶ Chesapeake Bay Strategy Update

**DEP Secretary John Quigley**

# ▶ Chesapeake Bay Strategy Update

## Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding

# ➤ Address Pollutant Reduction

DEP to enlist Conservation Districts to inspect farms.

- Requirements for existing funding will shift from 100 educational visits to 50 inspections per year.
- Emphasize technical assistance **AND** regulatory compliance.
- Need for additional DEP staff reduced based on success of partnership with Conservation Districts.

# ▶ Ag Inspection SOP

## DEP Developing Standard Operating Procedures

- Ensure consistency
- Address Conservation Districts' concerns

## Review of Standard Operating Procedures

- Draft provided to Conservation Districts
- Training DEP/CD staff planned

## Inspection Focus

- Manure Management Plan
- Erosion and Sedimentation Plan
- Significant water quality problems

# ▶ Timeline – Progress Made

- Jan. 21      Announcement of reboot
- March 7      Program office “open for business”
  - Nicki Kasi, Manager
  - Kristen Wolf, Coordinator
  - Ted Tesler, Technical Support
  - Steph Wilfong, Administrative Officer
- March 15     “All Bay” meeting with districts
- March 22     SOP meetings with 4-8 districts
- & April 26

# Timeline – SOP Finalization

- May 10 Draft SOP posted on website
- May 13 Meeting to discuss results of pilot testing
- May 20 District webinar
- May 27 Finalize SOP materials
- June DEP staff training
- July: DEP/district staff training  
(Chambersburg, Lancaster, Lewisburg, Wilkes-Barre)
- Post Training: Begin implementation



## ▶ Key Definitions

***Inspection*** - on-site verification that written plans are in place at an agricultural operation and an evaluation of conditions affecting water quality.

***Compliance*** - a condition in which an operation has satisfied Pa. regulatory requirements for development of written plans.

***Enforcement*** - activities undertaken by DEP to compel an operation to achieve compliance with Pa. regulation and statute.

# District Role

- Coordinate with DEP to identify farms to be inspected
- Conduct initial inspections to verify existence of required written plans
- Record the results of the inspections
- Refer inspection results to DEP where needed for follow-up compliance assurance or enforcement exists

# DEP Role

- Send pre-inspection letter to farmers in Bay Watershed
- Complete additional inspections
- Conduct follow-up inspections as needed based on referrals from Districts
- Take enforcement actions, where appropriate
- Develop/revise SOPs and inspection forms
- Develop/deliver training

# ▶ Bay Technician Agreements

- Revised announcement released April 26
- One requirement: 50 inspections per 1 FTE in accordance with the SOPs
- For payment to start **July 1**, need decision by **July 1**
- Contract vs. Delegation Agreement
  - Contract is more appropriate with specified tasks
  - Work with the SCC to finalize contract language
  - Start with standard DEP contract

# ▶ Other Funding Impacts

- Pending availability of funds:
  1. Provide a salary increase for Bay and NM Technicians
  2. Allow districts to “opt-in” in subsequent years
- DEP will use funds allocated for technicians in districts who “opt-out” to hire staff
- Decision to participate in this program does **NOT** impact funding for other programs:
  - Chesapeake Bay Special Projects
  - Watershed Specialists, Nutrient Management Technicians, Bay Engineers

# Conclusion

- Purpose of this exercise is to achieve compliance with our regulations
- As a result of successful discussions with districts, PACD, SCC, a number of improvements were made to the SOPs
- Time for Districts to make a decision
- Goal is to begin implementation by **July 1**



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**DEP Chesapeake Bay Website**

[www.dep.pa.gov/Chesapeake\\_Bay](http://www.dep.pa.gov/Chesapeake_Bay)

# DEP's Mission

“To protect Pennsylvania’s air, land, and water from pollution and to provide for the health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment. We will work as partners with individuals, organizations, governments, and businesses to prevent pollution and restore our natural resources.”