



## Virginia Environmental Law

# What Is Next For the Virginia Chesapeake Bay WIP

By: Ann Neil Cosby. *This was posted Wednesday, May 18th, 2011*



Image via Wikipedia

*Phase II of Virginia's Watershed Implementation Plan:  
Where are we now, where are we heading, and how do we get there?*

Work on Virginia's Watershed Implementation Plan ("WIP"), specifically, the required implementation of Phase II, has begun...sort of.

Phase I of the WIP, which was completed by the state and approved by [EPA](#) late last year, charts out actions deemed necessary and achievable by the Commonwealth, to achieve the [Chesapeake Bay TMDL](#) allocations between now and 2025. Phase I establishes an allocation process for the various source sectors that contribute nutrients and sediment to the Chesapeake Bay. These allocations are part of the "pollution diet" that the Bay has recently been put on by EPA and President Obama. Phase II of the process now seeks to implement these sector allocations at the local level. Virginia's draft Phase II plan must be submitted to EPA by December 1, 2011.

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Given the short timeframe, the [Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation](#) is moving quickly to initiate the Phase II process. Anthony Moore, the state's Assistant Secretary for Chesapeake Bay Restoration, outlined the course of action this way:

- [Phase II](#)
- [Local Engagement Process](#)
- [Key Points](#)

Based on comments expressed during the most recent Stakeholders Advisory Group on the implementation of Phase II, it is clear that Virginia has a long way to go, and a short time to get there. How we get there is still fairly up in the air, and whether we get there at all or in time remains to be seen. However, looking back, the Phase I process was also met with skepticism and Virginia got it done. Will we achieve the same success in Phase II? What do you think?

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