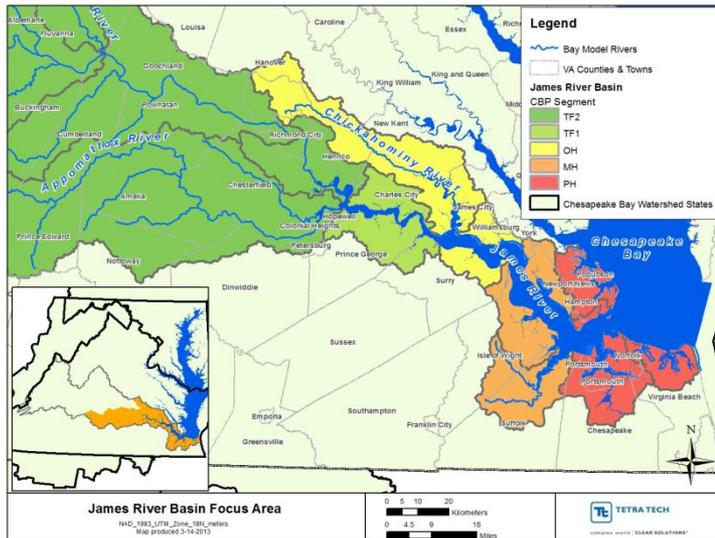


James River Chlorophyll Study

Status Update: November 16, 2015



Stakeholder Advisory Group

John Kennedy, DEQ Office of Ecology

Background:

- Tidal James chlorophyll standards adopted in 2005
- Driver was impaired aquatic life designated use
- Chesapeake Bay TMDL adopted in 2010:
 - Set more stringent James Basin nutrient reductions than were used to establish 2005 standards
 - Estimated cost of additional controls needed to meet new reduction targets ranged from \$1 – 1.5 billion
- VA conclusion: scientific study needed to provide more precise and scientifically defensible basis for nutrient allocations under the Bay TMDL

Purpose of Study:

- 2011 General Assembly approved \$3 million from WQIF for Study:
 - Review current chlorophyll standards and confirm if they are protective of aquatic life
 - Improve modeling capability to test nutrient loading scenarios and standards attainability

JR Chl-a Study Schedule:

2011	-----	Workplan Developed Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) Formed Science Advisory Panel and Stakeholders Advisory Group
2012	-----	Workplan Implementation
2012-14	----	Enhanced Monitoring and Model Development
2015	-----	Science Advisory Panel criteria recommendations JR Model TMDL Scenarios
2016	-----	EPA/STAC review of SAP Report EPA/STAC Model Review Develop Regulatory Proposal (if appropriate)
2017	-----	Complete Regulatory process and WIP revisions

Study Status and Future Activities:

- Enhanced monitoring and laboratory experiments completed
- SAP meeting held 11/6 to discuss Final Draft Empirical Relationships Report
- Modeling efforts extended to end of 2015; initial scenarios being run
- EPA preparing for STAC reviews
- DEQ review of study findings, decisions on criteria and assessment method revisions - now until early spring 2016
- Develop regulatory proposal summer 2016

For Detailed Information:

- DEQ webpage (*WQ Standards/Nutrient Criteria Development*) has:
 - Science Advisory Panel and Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting summaries/materials
 - Reports from Science Advisory Panel and Principal Investigators