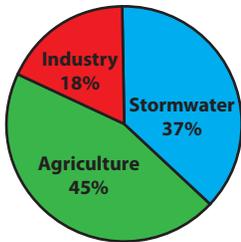


What is a TMDL?

A TMDL, or Total Maximum Daily Load, is the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards.

A TMDL creates a “pollution budget” for a stream, establishing caps on the amount of pollution coming from different sources in a watershed. The sources may include industries, agriculture, wastewater treatment plants and permitted stormwater discharges.



An example TMDL budget. For each source of a pollutant, a cap is established.

What pollutants can be addressed by TMDLs?

- Nitrogen
- Phosphorus
- Sediment
- PCBs
- Dissolved Oxygen
- Metals (Lead, Zinc, Copper)
- Bacteria

Why are TMDLs needed?

TMDLs are completed for waterways that are designated as impaired, or unhealthy. The TMDL is the first step in restoring the water quality of a stream.

A TMDL is like a weight limit for a bridge. If the load on a bridge exceeds safe levels, it can fail. Similarly, if there is too much of a pollutant in a waterway, it will no longer be suitable for swimming, fishing and/or drinking uses.

How is the health of a waterway determined?

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VA DEQ) monitors the Commonwealth’s waterways (streams, rivers, lakes and estuaries) for five uses: fishing, swimming, wildlife, aquatic life (benthic), and drinking. When waterways fail to meet standards for these uses, they are declared to be impaired and are placed on Virginia’s impaired waters list. VA DEQ reports this list to the USEPA every other year as required by the federal Clean Water Act.

How do TMDLs impact my permit?

If your facility is located in a watershed that has a completed TMDL, you may be requested to monitor your outfall discharge for certain pollutants. VA DEQ will identify the waterway that the discharge from your facility flows to, and any TMDLs have been completed for the waterway. Your permit requires Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Good Housekeeping as part of your Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). BMPs and Good Housekeeping help prevent and control pollutants in stormwater discharges from your facility.

What is a SWPPP?

A SWPPP is a site-specific, written document required by your permit. The SWPPP identifies potential sources of stormwater pollution at your facility and describes control measures that are used to reduce or eliminate pollutants in storm water discharges from your facility. Your SWPPP must address the specific conditions at your site and must be kept up-to-date to reflect changes at your site.

Additional TMDL Resources

Information on TMDLs completed in Virginia, as well as how you can be involved in the development of TMDLs can be found on DEQ’s [TMDL website](#).

Your permit may be impacted by the Chesapeake Bay TMDL established by the US EPA in 2010. This TMDL establishes reductions needed in nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Details on this TMDL can be found on DEQ’s [Chesapeake Bay TMDL website](#).

Additional BMP Resources

For more information on BMPs, the following links to manuals are provided as a courtesy. Inclusion of these links does not imply endorsement of any products.

- [Industrial Stormwater BMP Manual](#) (Oregon DEQ)
- [Stormwater BMP Manual](#) (North Carolina DENR)
- [Industrial Stormwater BMP Guidebook](#) (Minnesota PCA)



For questions on your Industrial Stormwater General Permit, please contact your regional water permit writer.

For more information on TMDLs, contact your regional DEQ office:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| • Blue Ridge Regional Office
Lynchburg: 434-582-5120
Roanoke: 540-562-6700 | • Northern Regional Office
703-583-3800 | • Southwest Regional Office
276-676-4800 | • Valley Regional Office
540-574-7800 |
| | • Piedmont Regional Office
804-527-5020 | • Tidewater Regional Office
757-518-2000 | |