

Protocol for Crediting Pollution Reduction Practices on Federal Lands to the Chesapeake Bay Program

September 14, 2018

At the District of Columbia's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Workshop for Federal Facilities on May 31, 2018, the Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) briefly discussed assigning credit for stream restoration, green infrastructure and other pollution reduction practices installed on federal properties. DOEE is providing additional information on how we intend to assign credit as we work to increase our collaboration and restore the Chesapeake Bay and District waterways.

Background

Federal lands make up almost 30 percent of the land area within the District, and implementation of stormwater BMPs on federally held lands is a critical component toward meeting the District's Chesapeake Bay TMDL allocations and the Phase III WIP planning targets. The new Phase 6 Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) modeling framework allows for the development of planning targets, scenarios, and progress reporting by agency for major federal landholding agencies in the Chesapeake watershed. The District Government has worked for years to install best management practices (BMPs) and restore streams on federal lands using District resources and funding secured by the District. We want to continue to do so, encourage federal facilities to also implement pollution reduction efforts, and facilitate opportunities for collaboration.

Crediting to Date

DOEE has been assigning credit for BMPs and restoration efforts on federal lands based on funding and installation effort. For example, when a federal facility restores a stream on federal property, they receive 100% of the credit when reporting to CBP so long as data is reported in a format that can be utilized by DOEE and CBP. However, if the District Government restores that same stream with access and permission provided, included any permitting, by that federal agency but *not* funding, the District receives nonfederal credit for the restoration.

Crediting Moving Forward

The District is interested in further exploring this issue with our federal partners. We know there will be instances where funding or project coordination is shared, or where site-specific conditions will result in a need to discuss how credit will be assigned. We remain willing to discuss this crediting on a case-by-case basis. We are open to federal agencies applying for District funds to implement projects and are willing to work together on securing funds, project coordination, technical assistance, and other ways we can support pollution reduction and restoration practices on federal land. Most importantly, we want transparency between the District and our federal partners on this topic.

We look forward to further discussing project implementation and crediting with you as we work toward our shared goal of a healthy Chesapeake Bay and District waterways.