

STAC BMP Verification Subgroup's Draft Findings and Recommendations:

Initial EPA and BMP Verification Review Panel Responses

CBP Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
September 17, 2013 Meeting
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Initial Responses

EPA, Panel, and STAC in agreement on most of the findings and recommendations:

- ✓ Need for periodic, rigorous evaluations to ensure jurisdiction reported BMPs implemented/functioning
- ✓ Base verification protocols on sound statistical sampling and desired level of confidence
- ✓ Engage independent entities with appropriate expertise to help design verification protocols
- ✓ Focus verification on areas, BMPs with most impact on Bay water quality

Initial Responses

EPA and Panel disagree with draft STAC recommendations:

- Considering water quality monitoring, soil P levels, and other indicators for annual practice verification
- Calling for de-coupling BMP verification from annual progress assessment via Bay watershed model
- Designating independent entities—not states, USDA, others—as responsible for implementing the BMP verification protocols

Common Ground

EPA and Panel do believe the STAC Workgroup is addressing the call for independent evaluation:

- Periodic application of a CEAP-like statistical survey of practices across all sectors by entities independent of ongoing verification
- Parallel evaluation of wealth of indicators—water quality monitoring, P soil levels, etc
- Application of above findings to further adapt the jurisdictions' verification programs over time

Next Steps

EPA asks the STAC Workgroup re-look at language, separating out 'verification' from 'evaluation'

- Consider outcomes of spirited STAC/Panel dialogue at August 28-29 Panel meeting: 'verification/validation'
- Focus on describing in more detail the periodic statistical survey of practices across all sectors by entities independent of ongoing verification
 - How often?
 - Clearly define independent entities
- Talk further with EPA on role of workgroups

Next Steps

EPA asks the STAC Workgroup for their ideas on:

- How to ensure the states get direct access to recognized statistical survey design experts for consultation and design help
 - Support through STAC cooperative agreement?
 - Set up a standing group of experts?
 - Tap into an existing institutional structure?
- How to both set up for and institutionalize the process for adaptation of the jurisdictions' verification programs