

FINAL

**Comment Response Document
Regarding the Water Quality Analysis (WQA) of Phosphorus in Potomac River
Washington County Watershed, in Washington County, Maryland**

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has conducted a public review of the proposed WQA of nutrient for Potomac River Washington County Watershed in Washington County, Maryland. The public comment period was open from August 19, 2010 through September 17, 2010. MDE received One set of written comments.

Below is a list of commentors, their affiliation, the date comments were submitted, and the numbered references to the comments submitted are identified below. In the pages that follow, comments are summarized and listed with MDE’s response.

List of Commentors

Author	Affiliation	Date	Comment Number
Brent Walls	Upper Potomac Coordinator, Potomac Riverkeeper	9/17/2010	1-2

Comments and Responses

1. I would like to suggest a title change to the Washington County Nutrient WQA for the Potomac to something that reflects the tributaries and not the Potomac River; such as: “Tributaries to Potomac River, Washington County Nutrient WQA”. I had to read the fine details to realize that the WQA being drafted only refers to the tributaries and not the mainstem. The title as it is suggests otherwise.

Response: The title of the document, as it is, is correct in reflecting that the WQA is for the entire watershed (MD 8-digit Potomac River Washington County watershed), both mainstem and smaller order streams included. The WQA provides discussion of data from both the mainstem and 1st through 4th order streams of the watershed. The report sets forth that neither the mainstem nor the 1st through 4th order streams are impaired by nutrients.

2. It needs to be stressed that in light of the up coming Bay TMDL for sediment and nutrients a cooperative effort needs to exist between the States of Maryland and West Virginia. Since Maryland owns the Potomac and would not want a State that drains into the Potomac to pollute it, I would think that MDE and WV DEP would start talking about these WIPs and what WV will be doing to reduce their load. Maryland and West Virginia have vastly different methods for reducing non-point pollution and in assessing sediment and nutrient impairments.

Response: MDE understands your concerns regarding a cooperative effort between MD and West Virginia to address pollution getting into the Potomac River. Since the Bay TMDL is a multi jurisdictional TMDL, coordination between States and the District and implementation of the TMDL is happening through the Bay TMDL effort coordinated by the U.S. EPA.