

APPENDIX A – Data Solicitation



March 15th 2003

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Resource Assessment Service
Tawes State Office Bldg., D-2
Annapolis, MD 21401

Maryland Department of the Environment

Technical and Regulatory Services
1800 Washington Blvd., Suite 540
Baltimore, MD 21230

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of the Environment (MDE) are planning to develop an integrated assessment of water quality conditions in Maryland and a listing of impaired waters. This information is required by the federal Clean Water Act (Sections 305(b) and 303(d)) and must be completed by April 2004. State agency and federal monitoring programs will provide much of the water quality data used for this report, but there are numerous water monitoring efforts conducted by local government agencies, researchers, students, and community groups that may be helpful in our Statewide assessment. From past contacts, reports or referrals, your group has been identified as a potential source of water quality data.

We are specifically interested in water quality measures that we can compare to criteria or standards that are published in State regulation (e.g., temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, fecal coliform bacteria - see COMAR §26.08.02.03). Other water quality data collected (e.g., field measures such as salinity, analysis of nutrients, chlorophyll, alkalinity levels, benthic macroinvertebrate and fish communities, habitat conditions, and field observations of the environment) may also be useful in characterizing water quality conditions. DNR and MDE will share water quality data and assessment methods to ensure that all data received are reviewed in a consistent manner.

If your group has collected water quality data in Maryland within the past five-year period (1998-2002) and you are willing to share those data with us, we are interested in hearing from you. Here are some guidelines that will help facilitate this transfer of information...

- * Contact one of us (see below) to discuss some details about your program, data quality assurance and control, how your information is available and how we will likely integrate this into the State's report.
- * We need to have a quality assurance project plan along with your water quality data. If one is not available, an annual monitoring report or a funding proposal or other documentation that describes the "**who, what, where, when, why and how**" of your monitoring program will help us identify where you monitor and define the quality of your data for our purposes. The QA/QC required for data considered under these protocols is listed under (Guidance for Quality Assurance Project Plans. Dec 2002. EPA /240/R-02/009) at <http://www.epa.gov/quality/qs-docs/g5-final.pdf>.
- * If you have recently provided water quality information in response to an MDE data solicitation for assisting in development of TMDLs, there is no need to resubmit that data.

* For full consideration in the 2004 report, we must hear from you by April 30, 2003.

If you have any questions about this, please contact either of Sherm or Charlie for more information.

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