



# Maryland

## Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Ben Grumbles, Secretary  
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

February 17, 2021

### **Subject: Water Quality Trading Credits Model Updates**

To Whom It May Concern,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of upcoming changes to the registration of credits for Maryland's Water Quality Trading Program (WQTP). You are receiving this based on past participation. Credits are based on the latest Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model, which simulates the loading and transport of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment. The Bay model experiences periodic updates to provide the best information available and improve our knowledge of impacts to its water quality based on new data.

The Phase 6 Model was approved in 2018 and is currently being used for assessing water quality impacts, this change also impacts Edge of Tide (EoT) ratio numbers used when calculating water quality trading credits. WQTP will allow for the use of Phase 5 EoT for the calendar year 2020 credits but will be using the new model EoT factors going forward. If your BMP is eligible to certify for more than one year at a time, we ask that you certify with Phase 6 EoT numbers found on our [website](#).

***After calendar year 2020 credits, all credits must be certified with Phase 6 EoT numbers.*** If you have additional questions regarding these program changes, please contact via email: [mde.wqtrading@maryland.gov](mailto:mde.wqtrading@maryland.gov).

As we are doing now, changes to the Bay model will be communicated well ahead of adoption in our program. Thank you for your understanding and participation in MD's Water Quality Trading Program.

Respectfully,

Nicole Christ, Natural Resource Planner  
Chesapeake Bay Restoration, Water and Science Administration

Enclosure:

MDE – Municipal Discharge Permit Division  
MDE – Compliance Program