From: Mark Barath
To: Cheryl Atkinson
Subject: Fw: WQS
Date: 11/01/2011 03:09 PM

Cheryl:
John's response to my inquire about WQS issues. Looks like the restoration variance criteria is going full speed ahead, damn the torpedoes. And not one mention to my suggesting of having a conference call on this the week after next.

Mark A. Barath
Environmental Scientist
Office of Standards, Assessment and TMDLs (3WP30)
Water Protection Division
U.S. EPA Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pa 19103-2029
(215) 814-2759 Telephone
(215) 814-2318 Fax

----- Forwarded by Mark Barath/R3/USEPA/US on 11/01/2011 03:04 PM -----

From: "John Backus" <JBackus@mde.state.md.us>
To: Mark Barath/R3/USEPA/US
Cc: "Adam Rettig" <ARettig@mde.state.md.us>, "Matthew Rowe" <mrowe@mde.state.md.us>
Date: 11/01/2011 02:51 PM
Subject: Re: WQS

Mark,
We are still internally reviewing TierII regs and guidance with the hope of proposing some amendments early next year. We will certainly keep you in the loop on this very interesting and challenging topic. We will need the Regions support and guidance as we proceed.

As far as the restoration variances, I have been directed to amend our regulations accordingly, per the Bay Model output, consistent with the Bay TMDL. We are proceeding as we (RIII/States) already discussed during the last WQS coordinators call. The amendments are awaiting AG and Secretary approvals. As soon as I have those, I will be publishing our notice of proposed action in the Maryland Register...shooting for late December. We will have a public informational meeting during the 30-day comment period.

Tomorrow, ICPRB is presenting their work/paper to senior staff (including Bob Summers, MDE Secretary). I'm sure we will be discussing next steps.

Enjoy your time off.

John

John Backus
Science Services Administration
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21230-1718
Phone: 410-537-3965
Fax: 410-537-3998