



Considering Climate Change in TMDLs

Virginia DEQ

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Climate Change and DEQ

- DEQ's Enabling Statute Changed in 2021 to address Climate Change
- Virginia Code § 10.1-1183
- “To address climate change by developing and implementing policy and regulatory approaches to reducing climate pollution and promoting climate resilience in the Commonwealth and by ensuring that climate impacts and climate resilience are taken into account across all programs and permitting processes.”
- Stakeholders have also begun to request the consideration of climate change into TMDL efforts

First Steps: Looking at Climate Change in TMDLs

- Raises More Questions Than Answers
- Started with “test case” analysis working with our contractor on current TMDL
- Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) has generated county-specific projected climate data
- Utilizing historic flow and Stakeholder assumptions on scenarios
- Applying same assumptions and projecting out that flow
- Looking at 30 year projection timeframe
 - Avoiding multiple projections calculations and modeling
- Producing baseline and future condition loading and allocations

Next Steps

- Finalizing Conceptual Trial Approach with Contractor
- Engaging Stakeholders
- Creating Consistent Approach
 - Establishing Guidance for Incorporating Climate Change into TMDL Development
- Rolling Out for New TMDL Developments