

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

2009

High Water Marks

SALUTING PROTECTORS OF OUR NATION'S WATERS



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION III WATER PROGRAMS

- With high praise from state recipients, nearly \$560 million in Recovery Act funds were awarded for initiatives to create and save jobs, strengthen the economy, protect public health and the environment, and improve water quality management. Actions were taken under a tight timeframe and unprecedented requirements for oversight, transparency, accountability and "green" project allocations.
- A 40-fold increase was achieved in NPDES permit coverage for Maryland and Delaware CAFO operations in a single year as a result of extensive compliance assurance and assistance actions, benefitting the Chesapeake Bay and state estuaries.
- As lead region for Water, a suite of new state/EPA partnership initiatives was launched nationally, including the landmark Nutrient Innovations Task Group Report resulting in a national nutrient strategy for water programs.
- TMDL consent decrees in West Virginia and Pennsylvania were fully satisfied for listed impairments in more than 1,500 stream segments. A total of 2,702 and 8,025 TMDLs were completed overall in West Virginia and Pennsylvania in connection with the consent decrees.
- Major steps were taken to reduce wet weather impacts through the nationally significant Hampton Roads SSO settlement, Chesapeake Bay stormwater enforcement in urban and suburban areas, and enhanced permits in West Virginia and Maryland, setting the pace for next generation stormwater permitting.
- Joint Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act inspections in Lancaster County, Pa., identified widespread high nitrate levels in ground water and helped justify a more extensive look at waste disposal practices by farmers in the county.
- The region's pioneering Healthy Waters work was featured prominently in the President's Executive Order for Chesapeake Bay restoration, including sector-based strategies, enhanced accountability for non-point sources, Watershed Implementation Plans, offsets, and enhanced regulation for urban stormwater and animal feeding operations.