



State Onsite Model Program Guidance for the Chesapeake Bay

U.S. EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

In response to the 2009 Presidential Executive Order # 13508 on Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration, the Horsley Witten Group, Inc. (HW) is assisting the EPA in its goal to restore clean water by reducing nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment, and other pollutants to meet Bay water quality goals by developing a Model Program Guidance for onsite wastewater treatment systems (septic systems). Septic systems are identified as one of the contributors of total nitrogen load in the Bay.

Unless they require a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, onsite systems are not federally regulated. This effort will provide guidance for the states within the Chesapeake Bay watershed to assist them in improving their management programs.

The Guidance will contain best practices and recommendations for states to utilize when making improvements to their onsite programs for the purpose of improving system management and ultimately reducing their loadings of nitrogen from onsite systems into the Chesapeake Bay watershed.



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