



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION III
Chesapeake Bay Program Office
410 SEVERN AVENUE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21403

Dr. Curtis Dell
U.S. Department of Agricultural Research Services
University Park, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Dell,

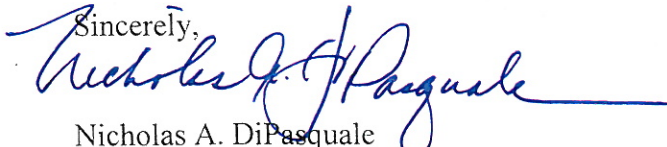
I am inviting you to participate as a member of the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Partnership's Best Management Practice (BMP) Verification Review Panel. You were nominated by a member of the Partnership given your recognized expertise and experiences. The Panel will be responsible for providing advice, feedback, and recommendations to the Partnership as it develops a BMP Verification framework for confirming nutrient and sediment reductions from the full array of best management practices and technologies implemented across all sources and habitats in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Partnership's Management Board recently selected you and 12 others from a longer list of nominees from across the Bay watershed and across the country to advise the Partnership.

As further background information, enclosed please find the charge to the Panel describing in more detail the Partnership's specific expectations for the Panel. I also have provided you with a full listing of colleagues being invited to participate as members of the Panel, as well as a description of how the Panel will operate and its overall schedule.

The CBP Partnership has committed to factoring in specific verification principles and protocols into the seven Bay watershed jurisdictions' existing BMP tracking and reporting systems. The CBP Partnership has defined verification as the process through which agency partners ensure practices, treatments, and technologies resulting in reductions of nitrogen, phosphorus, and/or sediment pollutant loads are implemented and operating correctly. This commitment is a direct outcome from recommendations from the 2011 National Academy of Science's review of the effectiveness of nutrient load reduction efforts undertaken to date by the CBP Partnership to restore Chesapeake Bay water quality as well as the President's May 2009 Chesapeake Bay Executive Order.

The Partnership initiated work on its basinwide BMP verification framework in January 2012. To date, we have produced a draft set of five verification principles and a draft set of verification protocols focused on pollutant source sectors (agriculture, stormwater, wastewater, on-site treatment systems) and habitats (streams corridors, wetlands). Leading up the Panel's principle charge of examining the degree to which each jurisdiction's program meets the parameters established by the Partnership's BMP verification framework, we will be asking for the Panel's review and feedback on these draft principles and protocols.

If you are willing to help the Partnership in its efforts to embrace and incorporate verification of implemented practices and technologies into day-to-day program management and public accountability, please contact Rich Batiuk, Associate Director for Science, at 410-268-5226 or batiuk.richard@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Nicholas A. DiPasquale
Director, Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Enclosures: Panel Charge
Panel Member Nominees
Panel Operations and Schedule