

## **PART IV: WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM**

The Commission recognizes that the states shall have the primary responsibility for water quality management and control. The Commission coordinates local, state, and federal water quality management efforts, promotes uniform enforcement of, and compliance with, established standards and classifications, and encourages amendment and modification of standards and classifications within the basin, as deemed in the public interest.

The Commission's program objective is to control water pollution sufficiently to maintain and establish water quality capable of supporting multiple uses, such as: public water supply after treatment; recreation, fish, and wildlife; agriculture; industry; and other such uses. To meet that objective, the overall goal is to achieve compliance with water quality standards and criteria for intrastate and interstate waters of the basin, as established by the member jurisdictions.

### **Point Source Control Program**

The Commission's point source control program goal is to encourage continued upgrading and development of needed public and private waste treatment facilities.

### **Nonpoint Source Control Program**

The Commission's nonpoint source program goal is the increased control of stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution through the fulfillment of the CBP's objectives. These objectives are related to monitoring and research recommendations, and baywide toxicant recommendations.

### **Cost/Benefit Analysis**

Not performed.

### **Special State Concerns and Recommendations**

#### **Abandoned mine drainage**

Degradation of streams due to AMD from past coal mining activities is one of the most prevalent water quality problems in the basin. These discharges occur when coal and sulfur-bearing minerals (pyrite) are exposed to oxidizing conditions to form sulfuric acid. The low pH of the water also dissolves metals (iron, manganese, and aluminum) from the rock strata. These dissolved metals can enter nearby streams.

State and federal agencies are pursuing remedial action for this problem, but progress is slow due to the magnitude of the problem and the significant costs to clean up the degradation. Successful abatement projects have been implemented in small areas, but the scope of the problem is so large, it will take many years before streams affected by AMD meet designated uses.

The current round of assessments indicates that AMD remains a significant source of pollution in the Susquehanna River Basin.

## **Chesapeake Bay**

CBP findings indicate the Susquehanna River Basin contributes a significant portion of nutrients to the Bay. To create a water quality condition necessary to support the living resources of the Bay, the CBP states have agreed to reduce or control point and nonpoint sources of pollution. Programs and policies implemented by the Bay states to reduce nutrient and toxic transport to the Bay have produced water quality benefits in the Susquehanna River Basin. Future efforts should focus on a continued commitment to the reduction of nutrients and an expanded commitment to reducing toxics from AMD and conventional pollutants.

Currently, the Commission participates in several CBP activities, including monitoring for sediment and nutrients in the Susquehanna River Basin, participating in a CBP workgroup focused on enhanced monitoring throughout the Bay watershed, and participating on the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Steering Committee.