

DRAFT
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Criteria for proposed pilot projects

What type of pilot project is proposed?

Proof of concept to test whether a technology works: limited in scope, this focuses on showing that a particular technology works. An experimental approach may be proposed to evaluate the technology's efficacy under different conditions. A pilot project is likely not proposed as the defacto watershed intervention to achieve TMDLs. If the pilot project is successful, it is one that can be scaled up or refined to achieve a greater portion of the percent of necessary nitrogen removal. Pilot project proposals which demonstrate promising chances of success, are well defined, and the variables are well understood, will be favored.

Demonstration Pilot Project: the goal is to demonstrate that a particular technology, either alone or in conjunction with other technologies will address the problem at a particular location(s).

Problem definition

Describe the background information that indicates there is a water quality problem. How well is the problem defined?

Proposed approach to addressing problem

What is WMA overall plan for addressing the watershed nutrient problem, is a nitrogen threshold documented (MEP or TMDL)

How does the proposed pilot project fit into the overall watershed management plan? Is it consistent with the 208 Plan

What are the goals and objectives of the proposed pilot project?

If piloting results in a method/approach not being selected, has a contingency plan for addressing the watershed problem been prepared?

How effective will the method be?

Site Selection: Is the location appropriate to the objective.

Site Characterization: Has the site been adequately characterized for the proposed technology? Describe existing information.

If additional characterization is required, describe the extent of work and relative proportion of the budget to be used in site characterization.

Suitability: Will the proposed method be suitable for the site? What are the variables associated with the site and the proposed technology?

Pilot project scale: What proportion of the watershed need is expected to be met by the pilot project? Does the proposal include an assessment of the feasibility of scaling up the pilot project to serve the intended neighborhood, watershed or other service area?

Performance measures: Does the proposal include suitable performance measures, spatially and frequency of monitoring to judge the success of the project? Performance measures may be quantitative, semi-quantitative, or qualitative, in descending order of preference. Examples of performance measures:

- For efficacy of method: Nitrogen concentration in water column decreases by X % (numerical performance measure), water clarity increases over baseline (qualitative performance measure), abundance and density of eelgrass beds increase over baseline (qualitative ecological performance measure), etc.
- How soon could one expect to see results for the technology and in the embayment.
- Influent and effluent measurements
- Perturbations in the natural environment caused by the pilot.
- Duration of testing, frequency of reports
- For feasibility: pilot test can be scaled up to meet needs of service area, operations and maintenance plan is feasible, costs are acceptable, etc.
- For project management: project milestones identified, deliverables are provided on time and are complete and satisfactory; budget is met, roles and responsibilities are met, etc.

Adverse Impacts

Will the proposed pilot project cause temporary or permanent impacts on coastal or inland resource areas, rare species habitat, benthic habitat, essential fish habitat, or other natural resources? Will there be temporary or permanent impacts on public or private properties and infrastructure? Will public uses and activities be disrupted? Has the applicant proposed measures to minimize, avoid or mitigate temporary or permanent impacts?

Permitting

What existing permits and approvals will be required to protect against adverse impacts? Is the permitting path clearly and completely defined? If approvals from some agencies (e.g., DMF, NHESP, etc) are required before applying for other permits, has the applicant contacted or consulted with relevant permitting agencies and obtained the necessary approvals?

Qualifications are sufficient to ensure success of project

Qualifications (e.g., roles and responsibilities are defined, project team members have relevant knowledge, experience, demonstrated success, and references)

Tasks and deliverables are well-defined and will meet the goals of the project.

Schedule of deliverables and milestones are provided.

Budget: the budget is reasonable and is related to specific deliverables.

