



2009

After EPA announces the 2010 Bay clean-up deadline will not be met, **CBF files suit against EPA** for failing to meet requirements of the Clean Water Act. The suit is settled in 2010. Settlement of the suit requires that EPA issue a Bay-wide limit by December 2010.

CBF LAWSUIT

DEC 2010

EPA issues a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to limit excess nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment pollution from the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed. This with the states' plans to meet that limit is the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint.

LIMITS

JAN 2011

The American Farm Bureau Federation and the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau file a complaint in federal court against EPA in an effort to stop the Blueprint from moving forward.

COMPLAINT

CBF, Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future, Defenders of Wildlife, Jefferson County Public Service District (WV), Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy, and the National Wildlife Federation file a joint motion to intervene in support of EPA and the Blueprint.

MAY 2011

FILING

Pennsylvania Federal Judge Sylvia Rambo issues a ruling upholding EPA's authority to issue the Blueprint and rejecting the arguments of the Farm Bureau, the National Association of Home Builders, and other big agricultural interests.

SEP 2013

RULING

The American Farm Bureau Federation and its partners appeal Judge Rambo's ruling to the Third Circuit.

JAN 2014

APPEAL

Attorneys general from 21 states (all but one outside the Bay watershed) and eight counties within the watershed file friend of the court briefs supporting the American Farm Bureau Federation and its allies in the effort to derail Bay cleanup.

FEB 2014

FILING

Friends of the court briefs in support of EPA and Judge Rambo's decision are filed by the states of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia; seven cities including San Francisco, Baltimore, New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles; a group of 19 prominent law professors; and 27 environmental organizations from across the country.

APR 2014

FILING

Oral arguments are held in the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

NOV 2014

HEARING

JUL 2015

In a unanimous decision, the Third Circuit affirms the ruling issued by the District Court.

RULING

NOV 2015

American Farm Bureau Federation and allies file a request for the U.S. Supreme Court to hear an appeal of Third Circuit decision.

APPEAL

CBF and EPA will respond to the appeal request.

WHAT'S NEXT?

FILING

THEN WHAT?

TWO OUTCOMES ARE POSSIBLE:

- 1. The U.S. Supreme Court will decide not to hear the appeal.** The Third Circuit decision stands, upholding the Blueprint.
- 2. The U.S. Supreme Court will decide to hear the appeal.** The case will be added to the Spring or Fall 2016 docket.

DECISION