

WETLANDS & WATERWAYS PROGRAMCharles Wheeler, *Director*

974-3877

The Wetlands and Waterways Program, formerly the Resource Protection Program, received its present name in 1990. The Program directs and coordinates management and protection of water and related land resources. The Program issues tidal wetland licenses and permits and nonfuel surface mining licenses and permits. The Program also monitors dredge spoil and reclamation of abandoned mines. In addition, the Program oversees joint efforts of State and local governments to protect nontidal wetlands.

TIDAL WETLANDS DIVISIONCharles K. Cover, *Chief*

974-3871

To minimize damage to tidal wetlands, this Division provides advice and issues permits for all construction projects that affect areas subject to the rise and fall of the tides.

NONTIDAL WETLANDS DIVISIONDavid G. Burke, *Chief*

974-3841

The Nontidal Wetlands Division oversees the permit process for construction projects that will affect nontidal wetlands. Such wetlands include swamps, bogs, marshes, bottomlands, and woodlands.

WATERWAYS PERMITS DIVISIONStanley Wong, *Chief*

974-2265

For construction within the 100-year floodplain, the Waterways Permits Division issues permits based on technical review and evaluation of submitted applications and plans. Plan review may necessitate on-site inspection to verify field conditions; review of hydrologic and hydraulic models; and advice to applicants on ways to minimize risks to adjacent property and the environment. The Division also reviews erosion and sediment control plans involving floodplain construction.

ENFORCEMENT & SERVICES PROGRAMWilliam S. Burgess, *Director*

974-2721

The Enforcement and Services Program was organized in 1989. Its work is carried out by three divisions: Enforcement, Technical Services, and Information Services.

ENFORCEMENT DIVISIONThomas Boone, *Chief*

974-2641

The Enforcement Division is responsible for inspection and enforcement related to legal mandates governing mines, mining, water, water resources, wetlands, and riparian rights (Code Natural Resources Article, Titles 7 through 9). Division

duties involve some 5,000 licenses, permits, and approvals for surface mining, nontidal waterway construction, and tidal wetlands projects.

The Division conducts periodic and unscheduled surveillance by ground, air, and water. Administrative or legal enforcement actions are based on the nature, extent, and impact of violations.

TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISIONMark Filar, *Chief*

974-2780

The Technical Services Division provides technical information to Water Resources Administration programs. Data is collected by drilling wells to check underground characteristics, installing monitoring devices on dams, conducting surveys, locating leaks in water distribution systems, and performing soil borings to determine soil types.

INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISIONBruce Thompson, *Chief*

974-2225

The Information Services Division creates specialized computer systems and programs to help manage Maryland's water resources and expedite the permit process. The Division manages the Map and Image Processing System (MIPS) which links information to maps, aerial photographs, and satellite pictures of land areas.

BUREAU OF MINESAnthony F. Abar, *Director*69 Hill St.
Frostburg, MD 21532

689-4136

The Bureau of Mines became part of the Water Resources Administration in 1987. Formerly, the Bureau had been under the Maryland Geological Survey. The Bureau has two distinct areas of responsibility: environmental control of active coal mines and restoration of abandoned coal mines.

Active Mines. The Bureau evaluates mining plans for proposed deep and strip coal mines. After environmental controls are established, reclamation plans for the land must be approved before mining can begin. Active mines are monitored for compliance with the law and the approved plans.

Abandoned Mines. Recent legislation makes possible the restoration of abandoned mines, which for decades have posed serious environmental problems. Money collected from a surcharge on mined coal funds the repair of environmental damage caused by abandoned mines. In conjunction with the Active Mining Program, abandoned mines also are reclaimed (Code Natural Resources Article, secs. 7-201 through 7-203).