

ment of hunting and wildlife conservation laws, the Force provides the primary law enforcement service as well as emergency services for some remote areas in Maryland. The Force enforces State laws and regulations on commercial seafood harvesting and sport fishing, boating, waterways pollution, and wildlife conservation, as well as general criminal law enforcement.

The Force inspects boats for violations of conservation and boating laws and inspects seafood processing houses and trucks carrying seafood cargo. It arrests and issues warnings to violators. The Force also investigates boating accidents, reports them to the U.S. Coast Guard, and conducts boating and hunting safety education programs.

The Force operates the Natural Resources Police Academy at Matapeake, a central maintenance and supply facility, and an aviation unit to provide airborne surveillance and rescue services to enforcement programs and Department agencies (Code Natural Resources Article, secs. 1-201 through 1-210).

WATER RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION

Robert D. Miller, *Director*
Charles A. Wheeler, *Deputy Director*

Tawes State Office Building, E-2
580 Taylor Ave.
Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 974-3846

Duties of the Water Resources Administration began in 1933 when the Water Resources Commission of Maryland was formed to devise and develop a general water resources conservation program for the State (Chapter 526, Acts of 1933). Commission functions devolved to the Department of Geology, Mines, and Water Resources in 1941 (Chapter 508, Acts of 1941). Responsibilities of the Department and the Water Pollution Control Commission, formed in 1947, were inherited by the Department of Water Resources in 1964 (Chapter 697, Acts of 1947; Chapter 73, Acts of 1964). The Water Resources Administration replaced the Department of Water Resources in 1972 (Chapter 348, Acts of 1972). The Administration protects, manages, and develops the water resources of the State. The Administration conducts three programs: Bureau of Mines; Water and Wetlands; and Enforcement and Services.

STATE WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

James E. Gutman, *Chairperson*

Contact: Ruth Mathes (410) 631-3734

The Committee advises the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of the Environment on ways to improve and protect water

quality in Maryland (Federal Regulations 40 CFR, Part 25).

WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION *Vacancy, Chairperson*

Contact: Robert D. Miller (410) 974-3846

The Commission advises the Director of the Water Resources Administration (Code Natural Resources Article, secs. 1-102, 8-202).

BUREAU OF MINES *Anthony F. Abar, Director*

160 South Water St.
Frostburg, MD 21532 (301) 689-6104

Functions of the Bureau of Mines began in 1876 when the Governor first appointed a mine inspector for Allegany and Garrett counties. By 1916, the inspector was appointed by the State Board of Labor and Statistics with the Governor's approval. The Bureau of Mines was organized in 1922 as a unit of the Department of Labor and Statistics (Chapter 307, Acts of 1922). In 1941, the Bureau was transferred to the Department of Geology, Mines, and Water Resources. In 1964, the Bureau was made part of the Maryland Geological Survey (Chapter 73, Act of 1964). The Bureau was placed under the Energy and Coastal Zone Administration in 1976, and in 1979 under the Energy Administration (Chapter 320, Acts of 1976). The Bureau became part of the Water Resources Administration in 1987. 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. Legislation makes possible the restoration of abandoned mines, which for decades have posed serious environmental problems. A surcharge on mined coal pays for 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).

MINERALS, OIL & GAS DIVISION

C. Edmon Larrimore, *Chief*
(410) 974-3874

The Minerals, Oil and Gas Division originated as the Surface Mining Division under the Water and Wetlands Program of the Water Resources Administration. The Division was reorganized in 1992 under its present name and transferred to the Bureau of Mines.