

(e) [The provisions of this section do not restrict the jurisdiction of the Department of the Environment.

(f) Agricultural drainage systems, for the purpose of lowering the level of water in the soil, with a total drainage area of 2,500 acres or less are exempt from the requirement of obtaining a permit from the Department, except that drainage systems financed or managed by a public drainage association are exempt from this requirement only if plans for construction, operation, and maintenance have been approved by the Secretary of Agriculture under § 8-603 of the Agriculture Article.

[(g)](F) The periodic maintenance of agricultural drainage systems constructed under the auspices of a public drainage or watershed association is exempt from the requirement of obtaining a permit from the Department if:

(1) The maintenance is performed in accordance with a permit from the Department for the original construction or reconstruction of the drainage system; or

(2) The maintenance is performed in accordance with an operation and maintenance plan approved by the local soil conservation district and the Secretary of Agriculture under § 8-603 of the Agriculture Article.

[(h)](G) The removal or demolition of residential structures is exempt from any permit requirement of this section.

5-512.

(A) The provisions of this subtitle do not amend or repeal:

(1) [any] ANY law relating to the Public Service Commission [and Department of the Environment, relating] OR to water and water structures [,]; or

(2) [any] ANY act or parts of acts consistent with the provisions of this subtitle.

(B) The provisions of this subtitle do not impair any riparian or other vested right, nor amend, repeal, limit, impair, or alter any right, power, or privilege granted by the General Assembly to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to appropriate or use any river, stream, or water in the state to augment and improve the municipal water supply of Baltimore City.

5-601.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) "Construction" means any clearing, grading, excavation, building, or the commencement of any of these activities.

(c) "Department" means the Department of [Natural Resources] THE ENVIRONMENT.

(d) "Exploratory activities" means any activity involving the drilling of test wells for geothermal resources.