

The study would be similar to one that the Department of Interior and the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration are planning in the Northwest on the Columbia River.

Such a study, Governor Agnew noted, would coincide with the State's greatly intensified attack on water pollution. The General Assembly approved this week a \$129 million bond issue to combat water pollution on a massive scale.

The Governor made public a letter he has written to chairman of the Senate subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution, Senator Edmund S. Muskie, D-Me., requesting the study of thermal effects. He also released a report he has received from the Maryland Water Pollution Control Commission on thermal discharges into the Patuxent River from a coal-powered generating plant with 710-megawatt capacity on the Patuxent River.

The Governor said it is the opinion of his advisers that the study on the Patuxent River, since 1962, and a similar study conducted by the power company, "yielded no credible evidence of significant damage to the natural resources of the area."

But, he added, "both studies leave many critical questions unanswered."

"It is now evident that Maryland and other States will be called upon more and more frequently to issue permits for the use of water to cool the generators and steam electric stations, and some of these will be of capacities ranging to 3,000 megawatts or more," Governor Agnew said in the letter to Muskie.

"The time has arrived when we must have more and better information to guide us in the critical judgments that must be made in relation to such permits.

"I believe that it is time for the Federal government and industry to join forces in a comprehensive effort to (1) assess the effects of thermal additions to estuaries and (2) exhaustively explore means by which the energy of thermal additions might be put to constructive use.

"I believe it is time that piecemeal efforts by individual states and power companies should be abandoned in favor of a unified and intensified Federally-directed study of the broadest scope."

The Governor said he was encouraged by the recent announcement by the Department of the Interior and the Federal Water Pollution