

WATER RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION

Herbert M. Sachs, Administrator

Tawes State Office Building, Annapolis 21401 Telephone: 267-5846

The Water Resources Administration, created by Chapter 348, Acts of 1972, replaced the Department of Water Resources, created by Chapter 73, Acts of 1964, upon the recommendation of State Planning Department and on the basis of recommendations made in 1961 as a result of a study of the future administration of Maryland water resource activities. The water pollution control functions of the predecessor agency, the Water Pollution Control Commission, originally created by Chapter 697, Acts of 1947, were transferred in their entirety and without substantial change to the new Department. The Administration at that time also took over certain powers and duties previously exercised by the Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources (which itself was reorganized and renamed Maryland Geological Survey). The Administration, then the Department replaced the abolished Water Pollution Control Commission as a member department of the Department of Natural Resources.

This agency is concerned with the protection enhancement and management of the water resources of the State.

Program activities are divided into three basic categories, Enforcement, Permits and Certification, and Technical Services.

The Enforcement program is responsible for the inspection, investigation and enforcement activities of the Administration and encompasses two primary projects: watershed control, which applies prevention oriented enforcement procedures to those activities directly related to geologic and hydrologic processes occurring in watershed areas. The water quality control activity is responsible for enforcement of the provisions of Article 96A of the code, relating to industries and other point-source discharges (Natural Resources Article, secs. 8-801 to 8-813).

The General Permits Section is responsible for issuing wetlands permits for the regulation of dredging and filling in of tidal wetlands, certification to federal agencies of impact of proposed projects and issuing of permits involving surface water use, including appropriations, dams and reservoir construction and construction in waterways and floodplains, and issuing permits involving groundwater use including appropriations and construction of water wells. The water quality permits activity is responsible for issuing waste discharge permits for 1500 industrial discharges and several thousand discharges from active mines and agricultural sources and licensing of all persons engaged in storage, transfer, treatment or disposition of oil (Natural Resources Article, secs. 9-102 to 9-309).

The Technical Services Program provides technical support to the enforcement, and permits and certification sections (Natural Resources Article, secs. 8-1402 to 8-1410, 8-1101 to 8-1107).

During the 1972 fiscal year, the Water Resources Administration made 1,000 inspections for Sediment Control Plans, surveyed approximately 1,200 point sources of discharge (Industrial, Mining, Agricultural).

Wetland Management Activities included work on 150 Board of Public Works licenses, and forty advisory service projects. Water Quality Certification included work on 150 Wetland Projects, and 520 projects involving Department of the Army permits (Corps of Engineers). Surface Water Management projects included work on 180 small ponds, eight dams and reservoirs, seven permits for Surface Water appropriations, 57 projects involving construction in a