

**POWER PLANT SITING PROGRAM**

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This program, created by Chapter 31, Acts of 1971, is responsible for the administration of a long range electric power plant environmental research program, monitoring existing and proposed power plants, evaluation of proposed sites and acquisition of land for sufficient standby sites.

The Environmental Trust Fund became effective January 1, 1972 when a surcharge of .1 mil per kilowatt hour of electrical energy generated in Maryland was imposed.

During the first six months of operation, the Environmental Trust Fund accrued \$974,727.28.

Effective July 1, 1972 the surcharge was increased to .147 mil per kilowatt hour. The first quarter of fiscal 1973 has produced \$771,545.93 for the Environmental Trust Fund.

Through the 1972 Ten-Year Plan, nine sites for the possible construction of new generating facilities were identified.

The Secretary of Natural Resources with the advice of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene is required to prepare and submit to the Public Service Commission a Preliminary Environmental Statement on each site identified in the plan.

As a consequence of the start of the program and the 1972 Ten-Year Plan being the first, the number of sites requiring Preliminary Environmental Statements was large. In addition to the nine sites identified, there is one site for possible State acquisition that requires investigation. Seven sites have undergone preliminary investigation.

The objective of the monitoring program is to assess the environmental impact of existing electric generating units to permit future siting decisions to be based upon a broader baseline of understanding. Work is being performed under contract with the Research Institute for Advanced Studies (Martin Marietta Corporation), Environmental Measurements Incorporated, and Natural Resources Institute (working in conjunction with the Benedict Laboratory of Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences). Once the prototypes have been adjusted and verified they will be applied over the State.

The research program is directed toward better understanding of the basic physical, chemical, and biological impacts of electric power plants on the environment. The Chesapeake Bay Cooling Water Studies Group is studying aquatic impact problems while the Human Health and Welfare Studies Group investigates the air quality, radioactivity, and socio-economic impact (Natural Resources Article, secs. 3-301 to 3-307).

Appropriations	1973	1974
Special Funds .....	\$4,092,720	\$4,537,919
Total .....	\$4,092,720	\$4,537,919

Staff: 10.

**MARYLAND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

**The Commission**

Chairman: Ernst Cloos, 1976

John C. Geyer, 1974; S. James Campbell, 1975; Robert C. Harvey, 1976; Richard W. Cooper, 1977.