

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

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In 1987, the Department of the Environment was created to improve enforcement of environmental laws and regulations in Maryland (Senate Bill no. 671). The Department will assist and expedite the restoration of Chesapeake Bay and her tributaries, and will enhance State efforts to improve air and water quality and prevent pollution from hazardous and solid waste. The Department also will help local governments perform their significant environmental and public health roles.

Within the Department are regulatory programs for water pollution control, air and water quality control, hazardous and solid waste management, sediment control, and stormwater management. These programs formerly were administered by the Office of Environmental Programs of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and by the Water Resources Administration of the Department of Natural Resources.

The Department of the Environment is responsible for all major environmental programs in Maryland. Its purpose is to foster and protect the public health and well-being by providing an environment free of the uncontrolled release or disposal of toxic, hazardous, or undesirable substances or emissions.

Under the Department are the Air Management Administration, the Waste Management Administration, the Water Management Administration, and two major support units: the Science and Health Advisory Group, and the Planning, Inspection and Compliance Program. The Department also is responsible for the Radiation, Nuclear and Noise Programs; the Watershed Protection Program for stormwater management; and the Resource Protection Program for oil, erosion and sediment control. Additionally, the Department oversees three licensing boards: the State Board of Environmental Sanitarian Registration, the State Board of Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators, and the State Board of Well Drillers.

Assisting the Department are the Air Quality Control Advisory Council, the Environmental Noise Advisory Council, the Controlled Hazardous Substance Advisory Council, and the Radiation Control Advisory Board. The Department's Science and Health Advisory Group provides staff support for the Advisory Council on Lead Poisoning and the Council on Toxic Substances.

### **OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

The head of the Department is the Secretary of the Environment, who is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Secretary, with the approval of the Governor, appoints the Deputy Secretary.

In addition to administrative responsibilities, the Secretary (or the Secretary's designee) is authorized to subpoena any person or evidence, administer oaths and take depositions and other testimony.

The Secretary is to investigate the influence of locality, employment, habit, and other conditions of health, and the causes of diseases and mortality to the extent that they may relate to environmental factors. The Secretary also may adopt procedures to obtain information about cancers that are caused by carcinogens and toxic substances, and the incidence of these diseases.

### **RADIATION, NUCLEAR AND NOISE PROGRAMS**

The Radiation, Nuclear and Noise Programs were formerly under the Office of Environmental Programs of the Department of Health and