

the General Assembly declared the inalienable right of each person to a healthful environment and gave it the highest public priority in the Maryland Environmental Policy Act (Chapter 702, Acts of 1973).

Between 1960 and 1980 environmental groups, commissions, and councils alerted the public to the twin perils of environmental pollution and uncontrolled development. In response, the General Assembly created the Radiation Control Advisory Board in 1960, the Board of Certification of Water Works in 1967, the Water Sciences Advisory Board and the Board of Well Drillers in 1968, and the Board of Sanitarian Registration in 1969. Also formed were the Maryland Council on the Environment in 1970, the Noise Pollution Control Advisory Council in 1973, the Hazardous Substances Advisory Council in 1976, and the Council on Toxic Substances in 1979. To safeguard the environment, the General Assembly divided enforcement powers and planning capabilities mainly between units of the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. They were responsible for programs and enforcement of all laws and regulations pertaining to air and water quality, solid and toxic waste, sedimentation and stormwater runoff, and environmental health until 1987.

Department of the Environment. State environmental programs were consolidated into one executive department when the Department of the Environment was created in 1987 (Chapter 306, Acts of 1987). The Department was formed to protect and preserve the State's environmental resources. It restores Maryland's environment and safeguards the environmental health of Maryland citizens. Duties encompass enforcement and regulation, long-term planning and research, and technical assistance to industry and communities in their efforts to take responsibility for pollution, waste disposal, and emergency spills of waste or oil.

The Department's four key programs are Air and Radiation Management; Technical and Regulatory Services; Waste Management; and Water Management. In 1995, the Department's Chesapeake Bay Program transferred to the Department of Natural Resources, and the Water Resources Administration, a direct descendant of the Water Pollution Control Commission, moved from the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of the Environment (Chapter 488, Acts of 1995). Since all departmental programs affect the health of Chesapeake Bay, the Department of the Environment continues to play a crucial role in all initiatives to restore the Bay.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Jane T. Nishida, *Secretary of the Environment*

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Appointed by the Governor with Senate advice and consent, the Secretary of the Environment heads the Department. The Secretary appoints the Deputy Secretary with the Governor's approval.

In addition to administrative responsibilities, the Secretary of the Environment (or the Secretary's designee) is authorized to subpoena any person or evidence, administer oaths, and take depositions and other testimony. The Secretary also investigates the influence of locality, employment, habit, and other conditions on health and researches the causes of diseases and mortality, to the extent that they may relate to environmental factors. To obtain information about causes and incidence of cancers, the Secretary may institute studies.

The Secretary serves on the Governor's Executive Council; the Maryland Advisory Commission on Manufacturing Competitiveness; the Governor's Council on the Chesapeake Bay; the Governor's Pesticide Council; the Chesapeake Bay Trust; the State Soil Conservation Committee; the Bottled Water Advisory Committee; the Scenic and Wild Rivers Review Board; the Implementation Committee of the Chesapeake Executive Council; and the Interdepartmental Advisory Committee for

Minority Affairs. The Secretary also chairs the Asbestos Oversight Committee and serves on the Appalachian States Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission, the Ozone Transport Commission, and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

POLICY COORDINATION

J. Charles Fox, *Assistant Secretary
for Policy Coordination*

(410) 631-4187

Policy Coordination began in 1995. The Assistant Secretary advises the Secretary of the Environment and Deputy Secretary on policy for permit efficiency and regulatory streamlining, strategic planning and evaluation, and federal and State budget coordination.

The Assistant Secretary oversees the Office of Budget, the Environmental Permits Service Center, and Public Information and Community Assistance. The office also is responsible for audit services, fair practice, legislation, and quality and management development.

OFFICE OF BUDGET

Patricia E. Crosby, *Acting Director*

(410) 631-4155

The Office of Budget was formed in 1995 to combine the functions of capital and operating budget management with those of bond sale and