

loan processing from the Water Quality Financing Administration. Under the Office are the Maryland Water Quality Financing Administration and two divisions: Capital Budget, and Operating Budget.

**MARYLAND WATER QUALITY FINANCING  
ADMINISTRATION**

Maria Markham Thompson, *Director*  
(410) 631-3119

The Maryland Water Quality Financing Administration started in 1988 within the Department of the Environment (Chapter 535, Acts of 1988). In 1995, the Administration was made part of the Office of Budget.

The Administration maintains and administers the Maryland Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund. From the Fund, local governments may secure financial assistance for wastewater treatment facilities (federal Clean Water Act of 1987, Title VI; P.L. 100-4). The Fund finances loans to local governments for construction projects to abate and control water pollution and thereby improve water quality. Loans from the Fund may be used to buy or refinance debt obligations of local governments. They also may help guarantee or purchase insurance for bonds, notes, or other evidences of obligation issued by a local government (Code Environment Article, secs. 9-1601 through 9-1622).

**ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS SERVICE CENTER**

Leslie Sipes, *Director*  
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The Environmental Permits Service Center was organized in 1995 to simplify the permit process for businesses subject to environmental regulation. To safeguard the environment, the Department issues more than forty types of approvals, in the form of permits, licenses, or certifications, as required by law. Such approvals are issued to improve or maintain air and water quality; control sources of radiation; protect wetlands; manage mineral resources; and regulate wastes, particularly hazardous and toxic wastes.

Because some businesses require more than one permit and some permits require detailed scientific analysis, interjurisdictional review, or public hearings, the Center provides applicants with complete information on what permits they need and how to apply for them. The Center then tracks the progress of applications as they are reviewed, acted upon, and issued by departmental units.

The Center works closely with the Department of Business and Economic Development to help new businesses locate in Maryland. The Center's *Small Business Assistance Program* and *Pollution Prevention Program* both provide technical expertise to businesses. In 1996, the Center published the *Business Guide to Environmental Permits and Approvals*.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION & COMMUNITY  
ASSISTANCE**

Susan E. Woods, *Director*  
(410) 631-3003

Public Information and Community Assistance began in 1991 as the Office of Community Assistance and received its present name in 1995. Responsible for media relations, the Office coordinates community outreach for the Department. As an ombudsman, the Office is the liaison between the Department and citizens, industry, local government, other State agencies, international contacts, nonprofit organizations, regional advisory councils, the media, environmental advocacy groups, local communities, and civic organizations. The Office informs the public about programs, permits, and regulations, and publicizes hearings open to citizens.

**ADMINISTRATIVE & EMPLOYEE  
SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

Leslie A. Campbell, *Director*  
Vacancy, *Deputy Director*

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Baltimore, MD 21224 (410) 631-3116

The Administrative and Employee Services Administration started as Finance and Administration and reorganized under its present name in 1995. The Administration directs five divisions: Central Services; Fiscal Services; Information and Communications Systems; Personnel Services; and Safety Services and Facilities Management. The Administration also provides library services for the Department.

**AIR & RADIATION MANAGEMENT  
ADMINISTRATION**

Merrylin Zaw-Mon, *Director*  
Susan S. G. Wierman, *Deputy Director*

2500 Broening Highway  
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State concerns with air quality and the effects of radiation were evident by 1951 when the Division of Industrial Health and Air Pollution was formed under the Bureau of Environmental Hygiene, Department of Health. In 1966, the work of monitoring and regulating was restructured. The Division of Air Quality Control was established within the Bureau of Resources Protection, and the Division of Radiological Health functioned under the Bureau of Consumer Protection. When the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene was formed in 1969, these divisions continued under the Environmental Health Administration. By 1977, under the