

In response to environmental and other emergencies, the Program coordinates planning and action by local, State and federal governments in cooperation with the private sector. Four divisions carry out Program responsibilities: Emergency Operations; Multi-Media Analysis; Natural Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Planning; and Nuclear Emergency.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

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The Environmental Risk Assessment Program started in 1985 as the Division of Standards and Certification within the Water Management Administration. In 1990, it was renamed the Water Quality Program; in 1991, the Water Quality Operation Program; and, in 1992, the Standards and Shellfish Sanitation Program. The Program regained its former name, the Water Quality Program, in 1992. It was transferred to the Technical and Regulatory Services Administration in 1995 as the Environmental Risk Assessment Program.

The Program protects public health by certifying the quality of water for the safe harvest of oysters and clams and establishing water quality standards for State waters. The Program monitors shellfish and fish tissues for contaminants; and studies water quality. To evaluate and reduce whole effluent toxicity, the Program oversees tests at municipal and industrial facilities and develops and promulgates regulations to protect the quality of surface and ground water. The Program operates through three divisions: Biomonitoring; Shellfish Certification; and Toxics Assessment.

#### FIELD OPERATIONS PROGRAM

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The Field Operations Program began as the Water Quality Monitoring Program. Under the Water Management Administration, it was restructured in 1990 and became part of the Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Management Administration in 1992. In 1994, it was renamed the Monitoring Program. As the Field Operations Program, it transferred to the Technical and Regulatory Services Administration in 1995.

The Program provides field support, on-site observations, water quality assessments, and data for the Water Management Administration and other Department units. The Program has two divisions: Compliance Monitoring; and Special Investigations and Site Assessment.

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### WASTE MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION

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Functions of the Waste Management Administration originated in 1912 with the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering in the Department of Health. In 1951, the Bureau became the Division of Sanitary Engineering under the Department's Bureau of Environmental Hygiene. Certain functions of the Division in 1966 were assigned to the Division of Solid Waste Disposal under the Bureau of Resources Protection. As the Division of Solid Wastes, the Division was placed under the Environmental Health Administration, when the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene was formed in 1969. The Division was renamed the Division of Solid Waste Control by 1973 and assigned to Community Health Programs by 1977. Also under the Environmental Health Administration by 1977 was the Toxic Substances Control Program. Elements of these programs were combined by 1980 as the Waste Management and Enforcement Program of the Environmental Health Administration. The Program was reorganized as the Waste Management Administration by 1982, became part of the Department of the Environment in 1987, and was renamed the Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Administration in 1988 (Chapter 306, Acts of 1987). It received its current name in 1992.

The Waste Management Administration provides for the safe collection and disposal of solid wastes. It regulates and inspects industrial facilities that treat wastewater, and controls the transport, storage, and disposal of hazardous substances.

Industrial wastes and designated hazardous substances may not be discharged or disposed of without a permit from the Waste Management Administration. The Administration conducts inspections to assure compliance with the conditions of permits, certifications, and licenses that have been issued and investigates reported water and pollution violations. Under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Planning Act of 1976, it is the State agency designated to regulate hazardous substances (P.L. 94-580). The Recycling Services Division within the Solid Waste Program leads State recycling initiatives.

Under the Administration are five programs: Environmental Restoration and Redevelopment; Hazardous Waste; Oil Control; Regulatory and Technical Assistance; and Solid Waste.