

COAL MINING DIVISIONJohn E. Carey, *Chief*160 South Water St.
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The Coal Mining Division began as the Bureau of Mines in 1876 when the Governor first appointed a mine inspector for Allegany and Garrett counties. By 1916, the inspector was appointed by the State Board of Labor and Statistics with the Governor's approval. The Bureau of Mines was organized in 1922 as a unit of the Department of Labor and Statistics (Chapter 307, Acts of 1922). In 1941, the Bureau was transferred to the Department of Geology, Mines, and Water Resources. In 1964, the Bureau was made part of the Maryland Geological Survey (Chapter 73, Act of 1964). The Bureau was placed under the Energy and Coastal Zone Administration in 1976, and in 1979 under the Energy Administration of the Department of Natural Resources (Chapter 320, Acts of 1976). The Bureau, in 1987, became part of the Water Resources Administration. In 1995, the Bureau was transferred to the Department of the Environment, reorganized as the Coal Mining Division of the Mining Program in the Water Management Administration.

The Coal Mining Division is responsible for environmental control of active coal mines and restoration of abandoned coal mines. For proposed coal and noncoal mines, the Division evaluates mining and reclamation plans. Environmental controls are established and reclamation plans for the land are approved before mining can begin. In addition, legislation now makes it possible to restore abandoned mines. These for decades have posed serious environmental problems. Reclamation fees and federal grants pay for this restoration (Code Environment Article, secs.15-201 through 15-203).

Under the Division are two sections: Permitting, and Land and Water Restoration.

MINERALS, OIL & GAS DIVISIONC. Edmon Larrimore, *Chief*

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The Minerals, Oil and Gas Division formed within the Department of Natural Resources as the Surface Mining Division under the Water and Wetlands Program of the Water Resources Administration. In 1992, it was reorganized under its present name and transferred to the Bureau of Mines. In 1995, under the Mining Program, the Division joined the Department of the Environment.

NONPOINT-SOURCE PERMITS PROGRAML. Kenneth Pensyl III, *Administrator*

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The Nonpoint-Source Permits Program began in 1988 as the Policy and Evaluation Program. It received its present name in 1992 when the Sedi-

ment and Stormwater Administration merged with the Water Management Administration.

Local programs for sediment control and stormwater management are overseen by the Program. To municipalities with populations over 100,000, it issues National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits to discharge stormwater. The Program delegates to local jurisdictions the authority to enforce erosion and sediment controls. At the same time, it reviews sediment control and stormwater management plans for State and federal construction projects.

To control nonpoint sources of pollution, the Program also develops policy, regulations, and training programs. Nonpoint sources are those without a specific point of discharge. They include pollutants washed off streets or farmlands.

Under the Program are three divisions: Dam Safety; Program Review; and Sediment and Stormwater Plan Review.

DAM SAFETY DIVISIONBradley K. Iarossi, *Chief*

(410) 631-3538

The Dam Safety Division traces its origins to the Water Resources Commission which in 1933 began regulating the construction and repair of dams. This division formerly had been in the Department of Natural Resources under the Water and Wetlands Program of the Water Resources Administration. In 1995, the Division transferred to the Department of the Environment under the Nonpoint-Source Permits Program of the Water Management Administration.

To ensure the safety of dams, the Division inspects dams, including those under construction. It issues permits to build or modify dams; conducts hydrologic and hydraulic analyses for new dam permit applications; and prepares downstream warning plans and "danger-reach" delineations for high hazard dams.

PUBLIC DRINKING WATER PROGRAMSaeid Kasraei, *Administrator*

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Created in 1988 as the Water Supply Program, the Public Drinking Water Program received its present name on July 1, 1993. The Program sets and enforces drinking water standards by inspecting water treatment plants and distribution systems. It surveys drinking water systems to determine levels of nitrates, lead, volatile synthetic or organic chemicals, and other contaminants.

Under the Program are two divisions: Source Protection and Compliance; and Surveillance and Technical Assistance.