

other underground area or place for the purpose of storing natural or artificial gas or petroleum products and their derivatives, unless a permit for such operation, construction and storage shall be first obtained from the Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources. Nothing in this sub-title shall be construed to apply to the installation or maintenance of underground tanks or vessels commonly to store such products.

648-II. The said Department shall prescribe rules and regulations to effectuate the provisions of this sub-title and any such permit may contain such restrictions as the said Department shall determine to be necessary in the public interest to protect the waters of the state; including subsurface and percolating waters. Any person who shall violate the provisions of this sub-title shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00). The provisions of this sub-title shall be enforceable by action or other proceedings in the Circuit Courts of the counties or in the Superior Court of Baltimore City to obtain relief in the nature of injunctive relief both restraining and mandatory, and also by action or proceeding in said court in lieu of prerogative writ.

648JJ. Every application for a permit shall be accompanied by not less than two copies of an accurate map prepared by a competent engineer or geologist showing the location, extent and depth of the proposed storage place and of all wells drilled or proposed to be drilled to such storage place. A copy of the map shall be sent to the Water Pollution Control Commission, and the said Commission shall, after consideration thereof, advise the Department of Geology, Mines and ~~Natural~~ WATER Resources in relation thereto, by a written report as to the presence or absence of danger of pollution, contamination, diversion or depletion of subsurface and percolating waters. The Department may take the testimony of such other person as it may determine. The Department shall determine whether the granting of any such application would be likely to endanger the public safety, health and welfare, and in accordance with its determination and subject to the approval of the said Water Pollution Control Commission, and to the provisions of this sub-title, grant or deny the application.

648KK. The provisions of this sub-title shall be applicable to any operation of drilling, boring, driving or digging heretofore commenced, as well as to any such operation hereafter commenced.

648LL. The following regulations shall be in addition to the rules and regulations prescribed by the Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources, and shall not limit the rule making authority of the said Department granted under Section 648-II-:

(a) For the purpose of this section, the following terms shall mean or include:

(1) "Department" shall mean the Department of Geology, Mines and water Resources.

(2) "Gas" shall mean all natural gas, all artificial gas, casing head gas and all other natural hydrocarbons not otherwise defined under the following paragraph.