

Garrett or Allegany County. The precise location shall be selected by the Director of the Bureau of Mines, with the approval of the Governor.

Article 96A

Water Resources

General Provisions

1. (a) *It is the intention of the General Assembly in the enactment of this Article to exercise to the fullest extent possible the responsibilities of the State of Maryland for water resources planning, development and conservation in order to obtain the greatest benefits for the State and its citizens.*

(b) *In the exercise of this responsibility there is hereby created a State Department of Water Resources, which shall have the powers and duties provided for in this article. In addition, the Department shall have those powers and duties formerly exercised by the Water Pollution Control Commission and the present Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources which are transferred herein to the Department. Nothing in this Article shall in any manner limit the responsibilities of the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs as provided for in Article 66C of this Code.*

2. (a) *As used in this article, the following terms shall mean, unless the context clearly provides otherwise:*

(b) *“Department” shall mean the Department of Water Resources;*

(c) *“Director” shall mean the Director of the Department of Water Resources;*

(d) *“Commission” shall mean the Water Resources Commission;*

(e) *“Waters of the State” shall include both surface and underground waters within the boundaries of the State or subject to its jurisdiction, including that portion of the Atlantic Ocean within the boundaries of the State, the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, and all ponds, lakes, rivers and streams within the State;*

(f) *“Person” shall include, in addition to any other meaning it may have under this article, the State, any municipal corporation, any county or any public or private corporation, copartnership, firm or any other entity whatsoever.*

(g) *“Pollution” shall mean the discharge or deposit into any of the waters of the State of any liquid, gaseous or solid substance or substances which may create a nuisance therein or render such waters unclean or noxious so as to be detrimental to the propagation, cultivation or conservation of animals, fish or aquatic life, or unsuitable with reasonable treatment, for use as present or possible future source of public water supply or unsuitable for commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational or other reasonable uses.*

3. (a) *The administrative head of the Department shall be the Director, who shall be appointed by the Commission with the approval of the Governor in accordance with the merit system law. The Director shall be a person with executive ability and experience and with knowledge of the general principles involved in the planning,*