

sional services which may be utilized in the acquisition, improvement, or construction of such facilities may be regarded as a part of the costs of the facilities.

3B. ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES; LIMITATION UPON POWERS.

THE SERVICE SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING OUT THE FOLLOWING GENERAL ACTIVITIES, WITH LIMITATIONS AS PROVIDED:

(A) PLANNING, INTEGRATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF GEOGRAPHIC SERVICE REGIONS AND DISTRICTS, IN COOPERATION WITH THE AFFECTED MUNICIPALITIES, AND BASED UPON APPROVED STATE-COUNTY MASTER PLANS FOR WATER AND SEWERAGE AND SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AS PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE 43 OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, AS WELL AS OTHER PLANS AND STUDIES PERMITTED BY THIS ARTICLE.

(B) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENTAL STUDIES AND INVESTIGATIONS INTO IMPROVED METHODS AND TECHNIQUES OF LIQUID AND SOLID WASTES ACQUISITION, TRANSPORTATION, PROCESSING, PURIFICATION, DISPOSAL AND MANAGEMENT, AND TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AND ASSISTANCE TO DESIGN, MANAGEMENT AND OPERATING PERSONNEL OF THE SERVICE AND, PURSUANT TO AN ORDER OR UPON REQUEST, TO APPROPRIATE MUNICIPALITIES OR PERSONS POSSESSING SIMILAR RESPONSIBILITIES.

(C) TO THE EXTENT DEEMED APPROPRIATE IN EACH PARTICULAR INSTANCE, ACQUISITION, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION, IMPROVEMENT, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF WASTE WATER PURIFICATION AND SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL PROJECTS, EITHER PURSUANT TO AN ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE OR THE SECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AS FURTHER PROVIDED FOR IN SECTIONS 8 AND 9 OF THIS ARTICLE, OR PURSUANT TO A MANDATORY AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE REQUESTED SERVICES, AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 6 OF THIS ARTICLE, OR PURSUANT TO AN APPROVED FIVE-YEAR PLAN, AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 5 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(D) ANYTHING IN THIS ARTICLE TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING, THE SERVICE SHALL NOT HAVE AUTHORITY OR POWER TO ACQUIRE, CONSTRUCT, OPERATE OR OTHERWISE ESTABLISH A WASTEWATER PURIFICATION PROJECT OR SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL PROJECT, AS THE CASE MAY BE, FOR ANY AREA OR DISTRICT WHICH, IN THE DETERMINATION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, IS RECEIVING ADEQUATE SERVICE FROM A PROJECT OWNED BY A MUNICIPALITY AND OPERATED IN COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS, OR FOR ANY AREA OR DISTRICT WHICH, IN THE DETERMINATION OF THE AFOREMENTIONED SECRETARY, WILL,