

Whereas the problem of water pollution in this State is closely related to the problem of water pollution in adjoining States; and

Whereas it is hereby declared to be the public policy of this State to improve, conserve and manage the quality of the waters of the State and to protect, maintain and improve the quality thereof for public water supplies, for the propagation of wildlife, fish and aquatic life, and for domestic, agricultural, industrial, recreational and other legitimate beneficial uses; to provide that no waste be discharged into any waters of the State without first receiving the necessary treatment or other corrective action to protect the legitimate beneficial uses of such waters; to provide for the prevention, abatement and control of new or existing water pollution; and to co-operate with the agencies of other States and the Federal Government in carrying out these objectives; now, therefore

It is the intention of the General Assembly in the enactment of this subtitle to ~~insure that discharges of potentially harmful substances to the waters of the State never exceed the limits imposed by a real determination of necessity~~ IMPROVE, CONSERVE AND MANAGE THE QUALITY OF THE WATERS OF THE STATE.

24.

For the purposes of this Subtitle, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Pollution" means such contamination or other alteration of the physical, chemical or biological properties, of any waters of the State, including change in temperature, taste, color, turbidity, or odor of the waters, or such discharge or deposit of any organic matter, harmful organisms; liquid, gaseous, solid, radioactive, or other substance into any waters of the State as will ~~or is likely to create a nuisance or~~ render such waters harmful detrimental or injurious to public health, safety or welfare, or to domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, or other legitimate beneficial uses, or to livestock, wild animals, birds, fish or other aquatic life.

(b) "Wastes" means industrial wastes and all other liquid, gaseous, solid or other substances which ~~may~~ WILL pollute ~~or tend to pollute~~ any waters of this State.

(c) "Treatment works" means any plant or other works, used for the purpose of treating, stabilizing or holding wastes.

(d) "Disposal system" means a system for disposing of wastes, either by surface or underground methods, and includes treatment works, disposal wells and other systems.

(e) "Waters of the State" means 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, the flood plain of free-flowing waters on the basis of a fifty (50) year flood frequency, and all ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, public ditches, tax ditches, and public drainage systems within the State, other than those designed and used for the purpose of collection, conveyance, or disposal of sanitary sewage.

(f) "Person" means the State or any agency or institution thereof, any municipality, political subdivision, public or private corpora-