

its intended action and afford interested persons opportunity to submit data or views, orally or in writing.

(2) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene may adopt, amend, or repeal substantive regulations as described in this paragraph. In promulgating regulations under this subtitle, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall take into account the existing physical conditions, the character of the area involved, including the character of surrounding land uses, priority ranking of waters with regard to effluent limits, zoning classifications, the nature of the existing receiving body of water, the technical feasibility and economic reasonableness of measuring or reducing the particular type of water pollution, and any other standard as expressed in the intent and purpose of this title. The generality of this grant of authority shall only be limited by the specifications of particular classes of regulations elsewhere in this subtitle. Any regulation may (i) prescribe different provisions as required by circumstances for different pollutant sources and for different geographical areas and (ii) apply to sources located outside this State which cause, contribute to, or threaten environmental damage in Maryland and (iii) make special provisions for alert and abatement standards and procedures respecting occurrences or emergencies of pollution or on other short-term conditions constituting an acute danger to health or to the environment.

(d) The Department of [Health and Mental Hygiene] NATURAL RESOURCES shall prescribe by rule or regulation approved methods, facilities, standards, and devices for transfer, storage, separating, removing, treating, or disposing of oil and other unctuous substances to prevent pollution of waters of the State, INCLUDING RULES AND REGULATIONS OUTLINING PROCEDURES FOR ADDRESSING WATER POLLUTION EPISODES OR EMERGENCIES WHICH CONSTITUTE AN ACUTE DANGER TO HEALTH OR THE ENVIRONMENT. A person may not engage in any commercial or industrial operation involving these activities unless he has obtained a permit from the Department of [Health and Mental Hygiene] NATURAL RESOURCES, indicating that the activities are in conformity with the prescribed rules and regulations.

8-1406.

The Maryland Port Administration is responsible for developing a program, including training, to enable the State to respond to an emergency oil spillage in the Baltimore Harbor area and the Department of [Health and Mental Hygiene] NATURAL RESOURCES is responsible for developing a similar program in other waters of the State. These units shall coordinate efforts of the various State and local units aiding in the operation and may request the aid of any appropriate federal agency if necessary.

8-1407.