

grants, including, but not limited to, grants administered by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for the collection and treatment of sewage and industrial wastes under the Sanitary Facilities Fund, [§ 387B of Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland] IN TITLE 9 OF THE HEALTH - ENVIRONMENTAL ARTICLE, the Service shall be eligible the same as a municipality.

3-105.

(a) The Service is responsible for carrying out the following general activities subject to the limitations stated in this section.

(b) Planning, integrating, and establishing geographic service regions and districts, in cooperation with affected municipalities and based upon approved state-county master plans for water and sewerage, and solid waste disposal as provided in [Article 43 of the Code] THE HEALTH - ENVIRONMENTAL ARTICLE, as well as other plans and studies permitted by this subtitle.

3-106.

(a) The director, after consultation with the Secretary of Natural Resources, the Secretary of State Planning, the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the municipalities affected, shall determine appropriate boundaries for water supply service regions, wastewater purification service regions, and solid waste disposal service regions. Service regions shall be based upon needs set forth in, and provide integration of, approved state-county master plans for water and sewerage or solid waste disposal, adopted pursuant to [Article 43 of the Code] THE HEALTH - ENVIRONMENTAL ARTICLE, but also may take account of other plans and studies.

(d) As soon as possible after designation of a service region, the service shall cause surveys, plans, studies, and estimates to be made, and after consultation with the municipalities located within the service region, prepare a five-year plan for each service region for the most effective and economical means of providing water supply, wastewater purification and solid waste disposal projects. In preparing a five-year plan, the service shall consider the effects of public versus private ownership of water and wastewater facilities upon the provision of dependable, effective, and efficient water and waste-water services. The five-year plans shall give due consideration to the need for water supply and wastewater purification projects included in the approved county water and sewerage plans adopted in compliance with [Article 43, § 387C of the Code] TITLE 9 OF THE HEALTH - ENVIRONMENTAL ARTICLE. The five-year plans shall designate the existing facilities or portions that are to be transferred to the jurisdiction of the service;