

Preamble

WHEREAS, The provision of adequate electric energy is necessary to maintain and improve the commerce, welfare, and prosperity of the citizens of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The generation and distribution of electricity entail the utilization of Maryland's environmental resources, including air, land, and water; and

WHEREAS, The continued increase in electrical energy demand, the obsolescence of older electric power plants, and changing environmental requirements necessitate the construction of new power plants and modification and fuel conversion of existing electric power plants; and

WHEREAS, Detailed, site-specific environmental studies are needed to provide the scientific basis for decisions on the siting, construction, operation, and modification of new and existing electric power plants; and

WHEREAS, The power plant siting program has met the objectives of its founding legislation by developing numerous new methods of predicting impacts of power generation technology upon the environment, conducting investigative and validating research, providing guidance for power plant design and operation through the permit process, and helping to ensure orderly governmental process without requiring the citizens of Maryland to pay excessive costs, either as taxpayers or as consumers; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly therefore finds that the public interest is served by continuing to involve both the public and private sectors in a stable, long-range, and comprehensive electric power plant environmental research program to protect the quality of the State's environment, including the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary waters, while also satisfying the electric energy needs of people and industry; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Natural Resources

3-302.

(b) The Secretary annually shall coordinate the preparation of a budget required to carry out the provisions of this subtitle. Upon approval of the budget by the General Assembly, the Public Service Commission shall establish the amount of the surcharge per kilowatt hour for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1972, and for each subsequent fiscal year. The surcharge may not continue beyond [1985] 1990 nor may it ever exceed 0.2 mill per kilowatt hour. The Comptroller shall maintain the method of