

(4) Through innovative and alternative methods of waste and wastewater treatment, to provide and promote prevention, abatement, and control of new or existing water pollution.

(c) The Department shall cooperate with LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, agencies of other states, and the federal government in carrying out the objectives of subsection (b) of this section.

PART VI. WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FUND

9-345.

(A) THERE IS A WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FUND CONSISTING OF MONEYS MADE AVAILABLE UNDER WATER QUALITY LOAN AUTHORIZATIONS OR BY FUNDS APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

(B) THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECRETARY, MAY AWARD FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF PROJECTS:

(1) CONSTRUCTION OF SEWERAGE SYSTEMS UNDER §§ 9-347 AND 9-348 OF THIS SUBTITLE;

(2) INDUSTRIAL USER PRETREATMENT PRACTICES PROJECTS UNDER § 9-349 OF THIS SUBTITLE;

(3) BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO CONTROL OR PREVENT AGRICULTURALLY RELATED NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION UNDER § 9-350 OF THIS SUBTITLE AND TITLE 8, SUBTITLE 7 OF THE AGRICULTURE ARTICLE; AND

(4) PRACTICES TO REDUCE POLLUTION FROM STORM WATER RUNOFF IN EXISTING URBANIZED AREAS UNDER § 9-350 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(C) (1) THE SECRETARY, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, SHALL ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS THAT ESTABLISH APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE. THE CRITERIA SHALL PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR PROJECT PRIORITY RANKINGS AND SHALL INCLUDE, AS APPROPRIATE:

(I) THE WATER QUALITY OR PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS CAUSED BY EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES;

(II) PREVIOUS EFFORTS EXPENDED TO CORRECT ANY EXISTING PROBLEM;

(III) FINANCIAL CAPACITY OF THE APPLICANT;

(IV) THE PROBLEM PREVENTION ASPECTS OF A PROPOSED PROJECT;

(V) COST EFFECTIVENESS OF A PROPOSED PROJECT;