

(a) For the purposes of this subtitle, the Department OF THE ENVIRONMENT shall have and may exercise the following powers and duties:

(1) General supervision over the administration and enforcement of this subtitle and all rules, regulations, and orders promulgated pursuant to it;

(2) Develop comprehensive programs and plans for prevention, control, and abatement of pollution of the waters of the State by oil or sediment;

(3) Advise, consult, and cooperate with other units of the State, the federal government, other state and interstate agencies, affected groups, political subdivisions, and industries to further the purposes of this subtitle;

(4) Accept and administer loans and grants from the federal government and other sources, public or private, to carry out any of its functions;

(5) Encourage, participate in, finance, or conduct studies, investigations, research, and demonstrations relating to water pollution and its causes, prevention, control, and abatement;

(6) Collect and disseminate information relating to water pollution and its prevention, control, and abatement;

(7) Adopt, modify, repeal, and promulgate, after due notice and hearing, and enforce rules and regulations implementing or effectuating its powers and duties;

(8) Hold hearings, issue notices of hearing and subpoenas requiring the attendance of witnesses and production of evidence, administer oaths, and take necessary testimony; any of these powers may be exercised by the [Director of the Water Resources Administration or a hearing officer the Director of the Water Resources Administration designates in writing] DESIGNEE OF THE SECRETARY; and

(9) Exercise every incidental power necessary to carry out the purposes of this subtitle.

(b) The Department 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