

[(a) The Maryland Energy Office shall establish a program for the storage of heating and other middle distillate oil for State use.

(b) (1) The Office, upon approval of the Board of Public Works and as provided in the State budget, shall lease storage space in oil tank farms.

(2) The Office shall consider the most economical and efficient alternative available.

(c) The Office may sublease excess storage capacity, not set aside for State use.

(d) State agencies shall meet their heating oil requirements, to the fullest extent possible, through these facilities.]

THE OFFICE SHALL ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES IN CONSIDERING THE MOST ECONOMICAL AND EFFICIENT ALTERNATIVE FOR MEETING THE ANNUAL HEATING OIL REQUIREMENTS OF STATE AGENCIES.

4-704.

THE MARYLAND ENERGY OFFICE SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES CONCERNING THE STATE'S PREPAREDNESS FOR, AND MANAGEMENT OF, GENERAL ENERGY EMERGENCIES AND SHORTFALLS:

(1) TO PREPARE CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF ANY SEVERE SHORTAGE OF FUEL RESOURCES, INCLUDING MIDDLE DISTILLATE OIL, MOTOR GASOLINE, RESIDUAL FUEL OIL, AND PROPANE GAS, ON VARIOUS CLASSES OF CONSUMERS;

(2) TO WORK WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IN PREPARING AND TRAINING FOR AN ENERGY EMERGENCY RESPONSE;

(3) TO MAINTAIN COMMUNICATIONS, INCLUDING COMPUTERIZED ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION, WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND WITH NEIGHBORING STATES FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING AND SHARING ENERGY DATA PERTAINING TO ENERGY EMERGENCIES; AND

(4) TO COLLECT, ANALYZE, EVALUATE, AND MAINTAIN ON A PROPRIETARY BASIS SO AS TO PRESERVE THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ITS SOURCE, DATA RELATED TO MANAGING ANY ENERGY EMERGENCY OR SHORTFALL.

Title 7. [Maryland Energy Office] ENERGY OVERCHARGE
RESTITUTION TRUST FUND