

(r) To make directly, or through the hiring of consultants, any plans, surveys, investigations, and studies relating to water supply, liquid and solid wastes transportation, purification, disposal techniques, RECYCLING, and management methods or the effects of these techniques, and methods, in order to improve or evaluate the effectiveness or economy of its services and operations. The Service may charge in whole or in part the costs of the investigations and studies against one or more projects or Service districts, or it may include them in whole or in part in its general operating expenses depending on the expected applicability of the studies and investigations. The Service may supplement grants or other aids received from the federal government or from other sources to assist in carrying out the purposes of this subtitle. Consultants hired under this subsection may not be deemed to be providing architectural or engineering services as those terms are defined in § 11-101 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(s) To conduct hearings and investigations for the furtherance of the purposes of this subtitle.

(t) To take and hold title to any project that may be transferred to the Service, and to assume jurisdiction over and provide for the maintenance and operation of the project, all on such terms as may be mutually agreed upon between the Service and the transferor. The Service may contract with any municipality to assume the payment of the principal of and interest on obligations or indebtedness of such municipality incurred in connection with any project and may undertake to operate any project in such a manner as to provide for the payment of all outstanding obligations or indebtedness applicable to the project and the interest thereon and to transfer to the appropriate municipality an amount equal to the debt service payments prior to the applicable payment date. ~~THE STATE AND ITS AGENCIES MAY LEASE, LEND, GRANT, OR OTHERWISE CONVEY TO THE SERVICE, AT ITS REQUEST, ANY PROPERTY, INCLUDING PROPERTY DEVOTED TO PUBLIC USE, THAT IS NECESSARY OR CONVENIENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS~~ SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE STATE MAY LEASE, LEND, GRANT, OR OTHERWISE CONVEY TO THE SERVICE ANY PROPERTY THAT IS NECESSARY FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(u) To do all things necessary to carry out its purposes and for the exercise of the powers granted in this subtitle.

(v) Except as provided in §§ 3-109 and 3-110 of this subtitle, the Service does not have any power to construct, establish, or operate any new solid waste disposal project within the boundaries of any county or municipal corporation without the express consent of the governing body of the county or municipal corporation.

(w) To permit a municipality to construct, operate, maintain, expand, relocate, replace, renovate, or repair facilities provided for in this subtitle when the Service certifies that it is not in a position to provide the necessary construction, operation, maintenance, expansion, relocation, replacement, renovation, or repair of facilities within the municipality. Notwithstanding other provisions in this subtitle and limited to the circumstances in this subsection, a municipality shall finance construction, operation,