

[6-306.] 6-406.

(a) In awarding financial assistance for an energy project, the Administration shall consider the extent to which any energy project for which financial assistance is awarded would:

- (1) Result in a reduction in the consumption of energy, particularly the consumption of petroleum;
- (2) Result in an increase in energy supply available to the citizens of this State;
- (3) Result in increases in employment and economic activity in Maryland;
- (4) Embody sound technology and economic feasibility;
- (5) Minimize any adverse impact on environmental quality; and
- (6) Maximize the utilization of federal programs that provide financial assistance for energy projects.

(b) Any decision of the Administration concerning the award or provision of financial assistance shall be reviewable by the Secretary, and the Secretary's decision shall be conclusive and not be subjected to the further review, modification or approval of any other State board, department or agency.

[6-307.] 6-407.

(a) In exercising the powers authorized under this subtitle, the Administration shall have and carry out duties including those set forth in this section.

(b) The Administration shall promote the various programs of financial assistance for energy projects established under this subtitle by informing consumers, the private sector, and financial institutions of the benefits of these programs, and by actively seeking their participation. In particular, the Administration shall:

- (1) Serve as a clearinghouse for information on federal and State programs that provide financial assistance for energy projects;
- (2) Develop and disseminate clear and concise descriptions of its various programs of financial assistance for energy projects; and
- (3) Minimize its application, reporting, and recordkeeping requirements in order to encourage and facilitate the utilization of its financial programs.

(c) The Administration shall coordinate the provision of financial assistance with the Maryland Environmental Service for energy projects that involve the generation of energy from wastes.

(d) (1) The Administration shall take all actions necessary to qualify for and to participate in the various programs of financial assistance for energy projects established under the Energy Security Act, P.L. 96-294. In furtherance thereof the Administration shall be specifically deemed to be, for purposes of that Act: