

impact analyses of using the site; and

- analysis of the impact on the local economy as pertains to the commercial uses of the area surrounding Deep Trough.

The scientific analysis shall be done by an independent research organization which shall report regularly to an oversight panel, appointed by the Governor, consisting of members of the executive and legislative branches of government, the shipping industry, environmental organizations, and representatives of the business community. The oversight panel shall approve the contract awarded to conduct the study, the research proposal, and the final report of the research organization. The report is due to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 1, 1998.

It is the intent of the General Assembly that the ~~Maryland Department of Transportation~~ fund an independent feasibility study of utilizing the area known as Deep Trough as a potential site for the deposit of dredged materials. The project is to be funded through existing resources previously appropriated for this purpose. The scientific analysis is to be performed by an independent researcher and will include:

- an analysis of the cost of using the Deep Trough site for depositing dredged materials;
- environmental analyses of the effects of placing non-contaminated materials in the Deep Trough;
- long-term and short-term environmental impact analyses of using the site; and
- analysis of the impact on the local economy as pertains to the commercial uses of the area surrounding the Deep Trough.

Further, it is the intent of the General