

and updated estimates of specific MDE annual operating cost savings resulting from EEMS implementation. The budget committees shall have 45 days to review and comment upon the report. Further provided, it is the intent of the General Assembly that not more than the \$100,000 in federal funds be expended for EEMS in fiscal year 2005, unless additional funding is sought via budget amendment or a deficiency budget.

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Further provided that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) shall submit a report to the budget committees by November 15, 2004, providing the following information:

- (1) Specific recommendations for restructuring various MDE fees to ensure that long-term structural budget benefits are realized. Strategies that should be considered include indexing fees to the Consumer Price Index, gauging fees so as to not exceed program costs, and expanding the allowable uses of fee revenue.
- (2) A thorough description of potential new fees that could substantially reduce MDE's general fund reliance in Water Pollution Control, Administrative and Employee Services, Technical and Regulatory Services, and Coordinating Offices.
- (3) Detailed descriptions of existing fees that could be increased to substantially reduce MDE's general fund reliance in Water Pollution Control, Administrative and Employee Services, Technical and Regulatory Services, and Coordinating Offices. This information should be based on a