

Environmental Trust Fund by each electric company an amount equal to 0.75% of the total surcharge attributed to each company on the basis of the electricity distributed within Maryland.

(c) The Secretary shall administer the Fund. The Fund is subject to the provisions for financial management and budgeting established by the Department of Budget and Management. The moneys in the Fund shall be used to carry out the provisions of this subtitle as provided for in the budget, except that 10% of all moneys accruing to the Fund from July 1, 1978 through June 30, 1983 shall be used to supplement funds necessary to carry out the duties of the People's Counsel of the Public Service Commission. The People's Counsel shall submit an annual budget of necessary supplemental funds to the Department to be incorporated in the Department's budget. For the purposes of this subtitle, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, may execute appropriate contracts with any State or federal agency, research organization, industry, or academic institution to conduct the necessary research, construct or acquire, or both, real property including physical predictive models, laboratories, buildings, land, and appurtenances, or support the technological development of extraordinary systems related to power plants designed to minimize environmental impact. The Secretary may utilize available expertise in any other State unit in the development, execution, and management of contracts and agreements on projects relating to their areas of prime responsibility.

(d) (1) The Maryland Energy Administration shall receive administrative and fiscal support from the Fund for studies relating to the conservation or production of electric energy.

(2) Fiscal support to the Maryland Energy Administration from the Fund may not exceed \$250,000 in any fiscal year.

(e) The Legislative Auditor shall conduct post audits of a fiscal and compliance nature of the Fund and of the appropriations and expenditures made for the purposes of this subtitle. The cost of the fiscal portion of the post audit examinations shall be an operating cost of the Fund.

#### **Article - Public Utility Companies**

7-203.

(a) (1) The Commission shall:

(i) impose an environmental surcharge per kilowatt hour of electricity distributed to retail electric customers within the State; and

(ii) authorize each electric company to add the full amount of the surcharge to its customers' bills.

(2) To the extent that an electric company fails to collect the surcharge from its customers, the amount uncollected shall be deemed a cost of power distribution and allowed and computed as such together with other allowable expenses for purposes of rate-making.