

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. He 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.

3-303.

(a) The Secretary, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION AND in cooperation with the Secretaries of the Environment, Agriculture, and Economic and Employment Development and the Director of Planning and electric company representatives shall implement a continuing research program for electric power plant site evaluation and related environmental and land use considerations. The Secretary shall seek from additional sources recommendations for related research to be included in the program. The additional sources shall include appropriate federal and State agencies, electric companies and technical, scientific or educational institutions or organizations. [An initial program shall be documented on or about January 1, 1972.] The Secretary IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION shall institute effective procedures for coordinating environmental research assignments to prevent dissipation of money, time, and effort. To this end, the State's electric companies shall be reimbursed from the Fund for environmental research specifically required to satisfy application and permit requirements for any federal, State, or local regulatory agencies, if the electric company has requested reimbursement in advance and furnishes an outline of the program and its estimated cost so that the Secretary can budget it in advance.