



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Kendl P. Philbrick
Acting Secretary

Michael S. Steele
Lt. Governor

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Fellow Marylanders:

In this third of three issues of *EnviroMatters* on MDE's accomplishments during 2003, we report on efforts to reduce air pollution in Maryland and several key initiatives related to clean water. Credit for these and the department's many other accomplishments belongs to the hundreds of dedicated men and women at MDE. They are the true stewards of the environment.

I hope you continue to find *EnviroMatters* helpful in understanding the work of the department. Your comments and ideas are welcome.

Sincerely,

Kendl P. Philbrick
Acting Secretary

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2003 - III

Air Quality

A recent issue of EnviroMatters reported on the positive trends we have seen in air quality over the past two decades - and pointed out that more needs to be done. During 2003, MDE played a key role in the decision of Northeastern states to propose stronger environmental measures at the national level. In addition, the department encouraged the administration to join the lawsuit that challenges an EPA plan that could result in increased airborne pollutants here.

We revised State Implementation Plans (SIPs, or clean air plans) required for Baltimore and the Washington, D.C. area so that transportation planning in those areas could continue without conflict. And we adopted three key new regulatory programs required as part of the Baltimore and Washington, D.C. ozone plans. (These new regulations require cleaner paints, less polluting gas cans and low-emitting consumer products.)

Water Quality

The department completed negotiations with the owners of the 66 major wastewater treatment facilities in Maryland to implement Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) technology at their facilities. During 2003, three facilities started up the BNR process (Cambridge, Fruitland and Leonardtown), two plants began construction (Centreville and Pocomoke City) and four facilities have signed new agreements to implement the more advanced Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) technology (Marlay Taylor, Kent Island, Perryville and Mattawoman).

In response to an executive order signed by Governor Ehrlich, MDE convened the Advisory Committee on the Management and Protection of the State's Water Resources. This committee is to identify long-term water quantity and quality issues including issues on the use of the Potomac and other drinking water sources in Maryland.

During 2003, nearly \$149,238,808 in capital funds (grants and loans) was committed to local governments for drinking water (\$8,654,431), non-point source pollution control (\$855,783), and wastewater treatment plant upgrades (\$139,728,594).

The department also completed 11 more Total Maximum Daily Load (or TMDL) analyses and water quality assessments of nine bodies of water during 2003. These analyses, which range from nutrients in the Northeast River to heavy metals in Loch Raven Reservoir, covered over half a million acres of watershed.