



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Kendl P. Philbrick
Secretary

Michael S. Steele
Lt. Governor

May 18, 2004

Fellow Marylanders:

Key legislation enacted during the 2004 General Assembly session included Governor Ehrlich's Bay Watershed Restoration Fund, the Brownfields Redevelopment Reform Act and the other key bills passed made this session a very successful one for the Maryland Department of the Environment and Maryland's environment. This key legislation is more fully detailed in the attached issue of **EnviroMatters**.

I hope you find this issue of **EnviroMatters** useful. As always, your comments and feedback are welcome.

Sincerely,

Kendl P. Philbrick
Secretary

May 18, 2004

GOVERNOR'S CHESAPEAKE BAY BILL, OTHER KEY LEGISLATION ENACTED DURING 2004 SESSION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2004 General Assembly session was a very successful one for the Maryland Department of the Environment - and for Maryland's environment. Historic legislation was enacted to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. Far-reaching reforms in the voluntary brownfields cleanup program were adopted. And tough new penalties were approved for falsifying data from wastewater treatment plants. Among key bills passed:

Governor Ehrlich's **Bay Watershed Restoration Fund** (SB 320/HB 555) will finance the installation of enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) technology at the state's largest wastewater treatment plants by 2011. When all 66 major plants are using ENR technology, nitrogen in the effluent will be reduced to 3-4 milligrams per liter and the amount of nitrogen flowing into the bay and its tributaries will be reduced by 7.5 million pounds annually. Governor Ehrlich's Watershed Restoration Fund is one of the most important pieces of environmental legislation ever enacted in Maryland.

The **Brownfields Redevelopment Reform Act** (HB 294/SB 186) builds on reforms announced by Governor Ehrlich last year. Among the changes brought about by the legislation: It will be easier for property owners to apply to enter the Voluntary Cleanup Program, there will be increased citizen awareness of the application and approval process, and liability protections for property owners will be expanded. The act also reduces project review times so that property owners and developers receive timely decisions.

House Bill 493 requires facilities that store, dispense, use, or handle hazardous materials to conduct a self-audit of the security of the facility and submit this analysis to MDE. The department, in turn, is required to adopt hazardous material security standards and regulations to implement the bill.

Senate Bill 65 increases the fine for submitting false reports or tampering with monitoring devices related to water quality and water pollution from \$10,000 to \$50,000 and the prison term from six months to two years. This was a departmental bill.

Finally, MDE was directed to make recommendations for statewide e-cycling (computers, electronics, etc.) and report to the General Assembly by the end of 2004. **House Bill 109** targets the estimated 42,000 tons of electronics discarded in Maryland each year.