

MDE Environment

Maryland Department of the Environment

August 1998

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State-Federal Partnership Formed

Environmental Performance Partnership Agreement Signing

"An important aspect of the agreement is that it recognizes the importance of public participation in developing Maryland's public health and environmental protection activities," Secretary of the Environment Jane T. Nishida

by John Mitchell

The Maryland Departments of Environment and Natural Resources marked an important milestone in our relationship with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region III, by signing an Environmental Performance Partnership Agreement. The Agreement will improve the effectiveness of Maryland's environmental programs and enable the state and federal government to better coordinate efforts to protect human health and the environment in Maryland. It will also provide for the development of a long-term, results-based management plan that will improve the effectiveness of Maryland's environmental programs and strengthen the relationship between the Departments and EPA.

While there are currently 36 Performance Partnership Agreements nationwide, the Maryland Agreement stands out as being unique. This agreement process brought together two state agencies -- the Departments



Tom Voltaggio, Deputy Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Region III, Robert G. Hoyt, Assistant Secretary, MDE and David Burke, Director Chesapeake and Coastal Watershed Services, DNR

of the Environment and Natural Resources -- along with EPA. Additionally, extensive stakeholder involvement was sought. "An important aspect of the agreement is that it recognizes the importance of public participation in developing Maryland's public health and envi-

ronmental protection activities," said Secretary of the Environment Jane T. Nishida. "Public participation is also essential to enable Maryland to achieve our public health and environmental protection goals." To ensure

Partnership continues on page 3

GOVERNOR GLENDENING HOSTS NATIONAL EXCHANGE OF IDEAS ON SMART GROWTH



Representatives from more than 20 states and an array of national organizations joined Governor Glendening in Baltimore July 7 for a two-day National Governors Association forum on state Smart Growth strategies.

the Governor opened the exchange of Smart Growth ideas by speaking about the importance of land use planning nationwide and explaining how Maryland built a consensus for its widely acclaimed statewide Smart Growth initiative.

Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and an advocate for programs to revitalize older cities and towns, lauded Maryland's efforts, calling the state's Smart Growth initiative "the most important new idea we've seen in the last 20 years."

Governors from states across the nation are facing the challenges posed by a growing population, migration away from older communities, and the unprecedented consumption of agricultural and natural resource areas for new development. Their growth management strategies include reforms to protect farms and ranches in Arizona, environmental protection and land use recommendations under consideration in Pennsylvania, land preservation initiatives proposed in New Jersey and creative transportation planning and design in Vermont, to name a few.

"The expanding debate over how we develop our land is one of the most important, issues facing this nation as we prepare to move into the 21st century," said Governor Glendening.

The National Governors' Association conference provided states the opportunity to exchange ideas on the successes and challenges they have each experienced so that together they can find solutions that work. Many of the Governors sent their top staff or Cabinet secretaries to learn more about Smart Growth strategies.

The conference was hosted by NGA's Center for Best Practices, and financed by grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Urban Land Institute, the Surdna Foundation, the Turner Foundation and the John D. And Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.



Visit MDE's home page
<http://www.mde.state.md.us>

MDE Environment is a monthly newspaper published by the Maryland Department of the Environment. Information contained within this publication is not intended to fulfill any legal or regulatory community information requirement.

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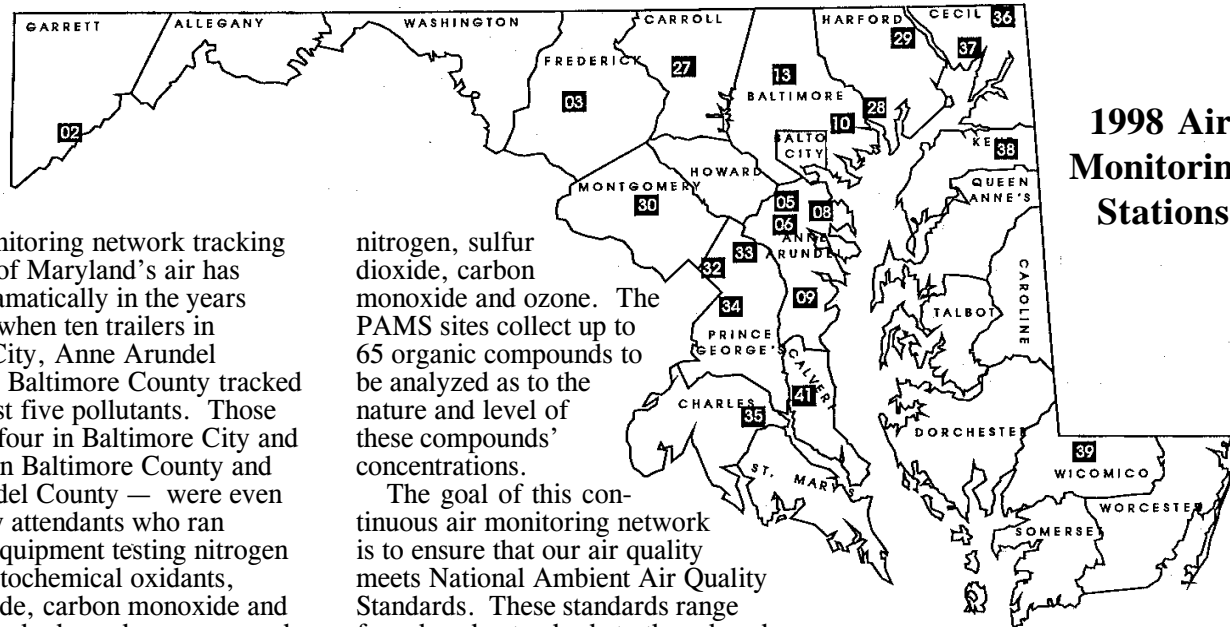
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Air Monitoring in Maryland



1998 Air Monitoring Stations

The monitoring network tracking the quality of Maryland's air has changed dramatically in the years since 1965 when ten trailers in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel County and Baltimore County tracked levels of just five pollutants. Those trailers — four in Baltimore City and three each in Baltimore County and Anne Arundel County — were even occupied by attendants who ran chemistry equipment testing nitrogen oxides, photochemical oxidants, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and non-methane hydrocarbon compound.

The Clean Air Act of 1970 required (and paid for) the states to install a continuous air monitoring network. The stations were located in Cumberland, Hagerstown, Bethesda, Silver Spring, Hyattsville, Suitland, Guilford Avenue and Pratt Streets from 1972 until 1982 when an even newer network was developed. The original 1972 network cost \$500,000. Nowadays, that money would buy only two Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations (PAMS).

In 1998, the Maryland Department of the Environment's Air Monitoring Network tracks air quality in a state-operated, statewide, state-of-the-art computerized network of remote stations that monitor oxides of

nitrogen, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and ozone. The PAMS sites collect up to 65 organic compounds to be analyzed as to the nature and level of these compounds' concentrations.

The goal of this continuous air monitoring network is to ensure that our air quality meets National Ambient Air Quality Standards. These standards range from hourly standards to three hourly, eight hourly and annual standards.

The continuous monitors, are polled routinely by the Airmon Central computer to collect 5-minute averages, 1-hour averages, status information, calibration data, etc. on a 24-hour, 365 days/year basis. The non-continuous samplers (fine particulate matter and particulate matter of ten microns or less in size) operate every third or sixth day and have filters that must be changed manually. The samples are brought to a lab and analyzed for content, weight, etc.

This network has told us that Maryland has only two pollutants that formally exceed their appropriate standard — carbon monoxide and ozone. The standard for carbon

monoxide was achieved (no readings greater than the standard more than once per year) in 1997. The standards for ozone have been exceeded every year since the standard was adopted. Now there are two new standards fine particulate matter and ozone-8-hour. Those standards may be exceeded in some parts of the state — the location and extent of these possible violations will be determined over the next 2-3 years.

In the effort to clean up the air, the easiest portion of the job is already done. As the remaining portion of emissions are controlled, the expense per ton of pollutant controlled will increase, but the goal of clean air will be a little closer.

MDE Announces Reduction in Interest Rates

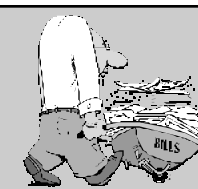
by Stephen Kraus

The Water Quality Financing Administration is announcing a reduction in the cost of borrowing from the Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund (WQRLF) effective July 1, 1998. The interest rate being offered to all borrowers has been reduced from 60% of the Bond Buyer Revenue Bond Index to 45%. For loans closing in July, the interest rate is just 2.4% for a term not to exceed 20 years. The only fees charged to RLF borrowers are a \$3,000 out of pocket origination fee and an administrative fee equal to 5% of total debt service which is annualized over the life of the loan. The origination and administrative fee add 0.50% to the cost of the loan for a True Interest Cost of borrowing of only 2.9%.

This new rate will apply only to Water Quality RLF. The Drinking Water RLF interest rates will remain unchanged at 60% of the Revenue Index.

This is tremendous news for WQRLF borrowers who can achieve significant savings over more traditional financing mechanisms. For an "AAA" rated issuer, the debt service savings on borrowing from the WQRLF exceeds \$2.3 million over a typical General Obligation bond issue on a \$10 million loan for a term of 20 years. "AA" jurisdictions can achieve even higher savings of approximately \$2.5 million.

This rate reduction is part of an overall Revolving Loan Fund enhancement program that includes many streamlined administrative and engineering requirements. For example, Davis Bacon Wage rates, costs of issuance, and pre-approval of A/E agreements and change orders have been eliminated. For information on the Water Quality or Drinking Water Revolving Loan Funds, contact the Water Quality Financing Administration, 410-631-3119.



Junk Mail

It creates four million tons of unnecessary waste

It fills 3% of American landfills

The average person receives 700 pieces of it or unsolicited mail each year

44% of it is thrown in the trash, unopened and unread

The place to start the process to reduce all that junk mail you receive is by sending a post card to the address below and asking them to remove your name from their list.

**Direct Marketing Association
PO Box 9008
Farmington, NY 11735**

Partnership continued from page 1

the highest level of public participation, the state and federal partners received comments from a variety of stakeholder groups and the public during the development of the agreement. Two sets of public meetings were held at locations across the state to discuss Maryland's environmental goals and indicators, which focussed on issues such as, improving air and water quality, protecting Chesapeake Bay resources, ensuring adequate wildlife habitat, and promoting sound landscape modification and smart growth.

Performance Partnership Agreements enable states and the EPA to develop a new state/federal approach designed to improve environmental results through greater flexibility, administrative savings and strengthened partnerships. There are numerous potential benefits of Performance Partnerships, including changing our grant conditions to better align our programs with our priorities, increased flexibility to allow innovation and more effective use of resources, and even multi-year grants and fewer reporting requirements. "This agreement puts us on a path of superior environmental results with greater government efficiency," said EPA Regional Administrator W.

Michael McCabe. Additionally Performance Partnerships can enable state and federal environmental protection agencies to move from measuring environmental progress through activity based requirements, i.e., number of inspections, site visits, compliance assistance, and enforcement activities, and toward measuring progress by evaluating environmental and public health improvements.

Maryland's Partnership Agreement is an essential piece of a comprehensive strategic planning process through which the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources characterized Maryland's environmental conditions using "indicators" that reflect Maryland's environmental and public health protection goals. The planning process also assessed the State's performance and effectiveness in addressing Maryland's environmental problems; established priorities for future targeting of the State's resources needed to remedy problems; developed an annual workplan that spells out what actions the State and EPA are taking to achieve the desired environmental outcomes, and will implement the workplan and evaluate its effectiveness. Although implementation of the Agreement is in its initial stages, benefits have already been derived.



Environmental Partnership Coordinating Team Members during the Partnership Agreement Signing

Secretary of Natural Resources John R. Griffin said "Going through the process of jointly developing environmental indicators, looking at each Department's activities in relation to the environment, and establishing joint goals, has increased communications and led to greater understanding and cooperation among the agencies, organizations and individuals working to improve our environment."

Additionally, the public participation process has resulted in an increase in the public's trust in the State's environmental programs.

John Mitchell is the Program Manager in MDE's Environmental Permits Service Center and is a member of the Environmental Partnership Coordinating Team.

Solid Waste Management in Maryland

by Hilary Miller

The Solid Waste Management Task Force, whose members represent the public, local and state government, private industry, and the legislature, was appointed by Governor Glendening in March 1998 to examine issues related to siting and interstate transportation of solid waste, and evaluate local and state procedures, policies, and authorities for solid waste management in Maryland. The Task Force, chaired by Edwin Richards, former Caroline County Administrator, meets the third Monday of each month at the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

During the April meeting, case law and issues related to flow control and the interstate transport of solid waste were discussed. David Biderman, Associate Counsel for the Environmental Industry Association, Sean Coleman, Counsel for the Maryland Environmental Service (MES), and Reverend Clark Aist, citizen member representing the Maryland Community Preservation Coalition, presented the perspectives of private industry, the public sector, and citizens, respectively. Members have expressed concerns regarding where wastes from New York City's Fresh Kills Landfill will go when that landfill closes and whether the closure will reduce Maryland's ability to continue to export municipal solid waste. While landfills in our neighboring states of Virginia and Pennsylvania appear to have capacity for New York's waste, Maryland's counties should have backup/contingency plans

in place. The number of municipal solid waste landfills in Maryland has declined by 50% in the last ten years. Simultaneously, private industry has increased involvement in the collection, processing, transportation, and disposal of solid waste.

In May, the focus of the meeting was the State's regulations and permitting process for landfills and the new rubblefill liner and leachate collection system regulations. Rick Collins, Director of the Waste Management Administration, presented information concerning the MDE permitting process and provided a summary of permitted rubble landfills and applications for rubble landfills in Maryland. By the year 2001, all operating rubblefills must have liners and leachate collection systems. Of the eleven currently operating landfills six are projected to be operational at that time. Calvin Smith, Browning Ferris, Inc. (BFI), in a presentation concerning private industry's perspective on the impact of the new rubblefill regulations, stated that BFI believes that the regulations are "an example of an environmentally protective, legally justifiable requirement that was developed through cost and risk benefit analysis."

Local zoning and land use and local participation in siting of landfills were discussed during the June meeting. John Woolums, Associate Director of the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo), stated MACo's support of state preemption of environmental standards and conditions and local authority concerning siting and planning for landfills. Presentations by

Kristen Hughes, Director of the Wicomico County Department of Planning, Zoning, and Community Development, and Lynn Robeson, Assistant County Attorney for Anne Arundel County, provided information regarding their local governments' decision-making authority concerning zoning requirements for County and privately owned landfills. Richard Klein, Community and Environmental Defense Services, provided a citizen's perspective on the issues and stated that positive factors which reduce the impact of a solid waste facility include: proximity to a State primary standard highway; installation of a liner and leachate collection system; and reduction or elimination of odors, dust, pests, seagulls, and visual impacts from the facility.

Both MDE and MES track the generation and disposal of solid waste in Maryland and there have been discussions during several meetings about the reporting of these statistics, especially with regard to MDE's compliance with the recently passed House Bill 1334 "Environment - Waste Information and Assessment Program." MDE is modifying the annual report form that permitted solid waste acceptance facilities use to report the disposal, processing, or transfer of solid waste and is drafting a change in the solid waste regulations to ensure consistency with the bill. Implementation of this bill will increase the amount and accuracy of the information provided to MDE regarding the origin of wastes disposed in Maryland and the destination of wastes leaving the state. Information concerning the amount of

materials managed through recycling, composting and incineration will also be collected.

Pam Metz Kasemeyer, who represents the Maryland/Delaware Solid Waste Authority, notes that in 1992, solid waste management almost exclusively involved municipal government, with the exception of haulers, with little industry involvement. Today, although responsibility for solid waste management still resides with local government due to accountability, government and private industry can now share expertise and economic opportunities and are developing partnerships that are advantageous to both entities. Robin Depot, who represents the Northeast Waste Disposal Authority on the Task Force, cites Maryland's three waste-to-energy facilities (Baltimore Refuse Energy Systems Company, Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility and Harford Waste-To-Energy) as examples of such relationships. Together, these facilities handle approximately 4000 tons of waste per day.

Future meetings of the Task Force will address regionalism, privatization, recycling, developments in other states, and solid waste management planning. In addition, the members will be arranging public meetings to receive citizen input regarding solid waste management in Maryland. A report of the Task Force's recommendations for the long-term management of solid waste in Maryland will be presented to the Governor by December 1, 1998.

Hilary Miller is a Regional Manager for the Central Region of MDE's Waste Management Administration.

The Clean Water Action Plan

by Steve Bieber

In his 1997 State of the Union Address, President Clinton announced a new clean water initiative to enhance the restoration of the nation's waters. Later that year, on the 25th anniversary of the federal Clean Water Act, Vice President Al Gore directed EPA and USDA to develop a Clean Water Action Plan to implement the President's initiative. Approximately six months later in February, Vice President Gore announced the completion of the plan in Baltimore, Maryland.

The plan identifies new actions and strategies for fulfilling the original goal of the Clean Water Act – "fishable and swimmable" waters for all Americans. While great progress has been made over the past 25 years in cleaning up rivers, lakes, and coastal waters, existing national programs lack the resources, strength, and framework needed to meet the original goals of the Clean Water Act. The action plan builds on existing clean water programs by proposing new efforts to restore and protect water resources.

"These objectives complement Maryland's efforts to address the connections between environmental health and human health – particularly concerning pollution runoff – which have been emphasized through our experiences with outbreaks of toxic *Pfiesteria*," Governor Glendening said. "The President's watershed approach mirrors Maryland's focus on the Chesapeake Bay Program's Tributary Teams, the Rural Legacy program to protect our

most threatened landscapes and natural resource areas, and reducing the sources of nutrient pollutants."

A key element of the action plan is the use of a watershed approach in which state, local and federal governments, and the public identify watersheds with the most critical water quality problems and then work together to focus resources and implement effective strategies to solve those problems. The first step in this process, called a unified watershed assessment, is the use of multiple processes to identify watersheds not meeting clean water and other natural resource goals. In Maryland, this is being accomplished through the work of an interagency technical work group chaired by Dr. Paul Massicot of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The work group is using existing Clean Water Act programs, such as section 305(b) Maryland water quality inventory, section 303(d) list of impaired waters, and section 319 list of waterbodies impaired by nonpoint sources of pollution, along with other environmental data to assess the health of Maryland's watersheds. The assessment is using a full range of available information to identify watersheds in need of restoration, watersheds needing preventive action to sustain water quality, and pristine watersheds requiring an extra measure of protection. A draft assessment should be completed in early August.

When the assessment phase is completed, Maryland will establish an overall approach to defining priorities

for watershed restoration that is consistent with existing programs, such as Maryland's Tributary Strategies. The process for identifying restoration priorities will include criteria for identifying watersheds that do not meet clean water goals. It will also include a long-term schedule for developing response plans, called watershed restoration action strategies. The response plans will initially focus mainly on actions in the 1999-2000 time period.

In most cases, the core of each watershed restoration action strategy will be the development of a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for each impaired waterbody. A TMDL sets the overall pollution reduction goals for a waterbody and assigns specific reduction targets to point source dischargers and other nonpoint sources of pollution in the form of "wasteload/load allocations" for the waterbody. While a TMDL generally targets specific pollutants in a river or stream, watershed restoration action strategies create an opportunity to bundle TMDLs and strike an appropriate balance between controls over discharges and polluted runoff, and to consider other water-related problems in a watershed such as wetland loss, drinking water protection, habitat degradation, and the health of riparian areas.

To support the new and expanded efforts proposed in the action plan, President Clinton's FY 1999 budget proposes \$568 million in new resources for clean water programs. While most of this proposed funding

appears stopped in Congress, the EPA share for state grant assistance (\$145 million) has passed through the budget committees in both the Senate and the House largely intact. A conference committee will determine how much new EPA funding ultimately is made available to state governments.

Maryland's participation in the action plan is the next step in a long-term, ongoing effort to protect and restore the state's waters and water resources. During September, several public meetings will be held across the state to provide an overview of Maryland's plan, and to seek public review and comment. Maryland agencies are committed to working closely with the public, local and federal governments, and others to ensure successful implementation of specific actions.

Copies of the federal Clean Water Action Plan are available on the web: <http://www.epa.gov/cleanwater> and <http://www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/cleanwater>. Additional copies can be obtained by calling, writing, or faxing the Center for Environmental Publications and Information, 1-800-490-9198 (toll free), P.O. Box 42419, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45242, 513-489-8695 (fax). Additional information on Maryland's Clean Water Action Plan activities will be available on the Internet in the near future at: <http://www.mde.state.md.us> or <http://www.dnr.state.md.us>.

Steve Bieber is Administrator, Office of Planning, Fiscal and Support Services in MDE's Technical and Regulatory Services Administration.

MDE Hosts International Association of Fire Chiefs Conference

by Alan Williams

The International Association of Fire Chiefs annually holds a hazardous materials conference. Baltimore has been the site since 1995, hosted by Baltimore County Fire Department and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The Sheraton Hotel in Towson was the location of the June 4 - 6 conference, and training sessions were held at Dundalk Marine Terminal and Martin's State Airport.

A waterfront demonstration by MDE and the United States Coast Guard consisted of the deployment of the Coast Guard's vessel of opportunity skimming system (VOSS), as well as an oil containment boom deployment. A water rescue by the United States Coast Guard's Cape May New Jersey helicopter was the highlight of the day.

The next two days consisted of classroom instruction and hands-on training held at the Air National Guard Base at Martin's State Airport. MDE's Bob Swann taught the class, as well as organized 26 local area tank trucks for the hands-on portion of the haz mat training. Bob's efforts are an excellent example of cooperation between government and the private sector.



Six students were members of various haz mat units from Israel and commented "they had never experienced a class of this kind, and looked forward to sharing the information with their team members in Israel." Other students responded they were "extremely impressed with Bob's knowledge of tank trucks and the preparation that went into the class." During the course many students were very enthusiastic and said "this was the first time that they actually had hands-on instruction dealing with tank truck emergencies."

In addition to Bob Swann, a special thank you to MDE employees for their invaluable assistance to the International Association of Fire Chiefs: Jim Hausner, Ray Wingo, and Tom Manning. MDE, together with the

Baltimore County Fire Department continue to strive to improve the education of emergency response personnel.

Alan Williams is the Chief of the Emergency Response Division in MDE's Technical and Regulatory Services Administration.



August Public Meetings and Hearings

August 4, 1998

5:30 p.m.

Harford County Administrative
Building Human Resources
Conference Room 103
220 S. Main Street, Bel Air

**Public informational hearing for
Nontidal Wetlands & Waterways
Permit Application
#98-NT-0748/19986-4087**

Water Management Administration
Jeffrey Follweiler, 410-631-3900

August 5, 1998

8:30 a.m.

Maryland
Department of Transportation
2nd Floor Conference Room,
10 Elm Road, Linthicum

**Public meeting of State Board of
Environmental Sanitarians**

Water Management Administration
Pat Kratochvil, 410-631-3167

August 5, 1998

7:00 p.m.

Charles County Government Building
Auditorium
200 Baltimore Street, LaPlata

**Public informational hearing
regarding Acton Lane Bridge
Replacement**

Water Management Administration
Judy Broersma-Cole, 410-414-3400

August 14, 1998

9:30 a.m.

Chesapeake Bay Program Office
410 Severn Avenue, Annapolis

**Public meeting of the Governor's
Wetlands Restoration Steering
Committee**

Water Management Administration
Tony Abar, 410-631-8059

August 20, 1998

10:00 a.m.

Howard County Board of Utilities
8250 Old Montgomery Road
Columbia

**Public meeting of State Board of
Waterworks and Waste Systems
Operators**

Water Management Administration
Pat Kratochvil, 410-631-3167

August 26, 1998

9:00 a.m.

TARSA Conference Room
Maryland
Department of the Environment
2500 Broening Highway, Baltimore

**Public Meeting of State Board of
Well Drillers**

Water Management Administration
Pat Kratochvil, 410-631-3167

September 2, 1998

9:00 a.m.

Chesapeake Room
Maryland
Department of the Environment
2500 Broening Highway, Baltimore

**Air Quality Control Advisory
Council Meeting**

Air & Radiation Management
Administration
Bonnie Besche, 410-631-3255

September 2, 1998

10:00 a.m.

First Floor Auditorium
State Office Building
300 West Preston Street, Baltimore

**Public hearing on the Revised 15%
Plan for the Baltimore Region**

Air & Radiation
Management Administration
Edgar Mercado, 410-631-3240

MDE's Water Quality Financing Administration Announces Linked Deposit Program

by Stephen Kraus

During the 1998 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 177 entitled "Linked Deposit" was signed into law. Linked deposit is an innovative financing structure that encourages private landowners and water system operators to take advantage of below market rate of interest Water Quality and Drinking Water Revolving Loan Funds for capital improvement projects. This program may augment existing State and federal grant programs for non-point source water quality and for drinking water projects. Eligible borrowers and projects include:

- farmers to pay for eligible non-point source best management practices (BMPs),
- homeowners to repair or replace failing on-site septic systems,
- homeowner's associations for failing storm water management facilities and
- private drinking water operators for improvements to water treatment facilities

Under this program, a private land owner or water system operator may apply for below market rate of interest financing through a network of private lending institutions. The lender will be responsible for processing, underwriting and servicing the loan. Additionally, the lender will evaluate the credit

worthiness of an applicant according to the lender's established underwriting criteria. Lenders will be permitted to charge origination, servicing and other such fees normally associated with loans originated by the institution. Once the project has been determined "eligible" under the water quality expanded uses or the drinking water program, a below market rate of interest investment agreement between the Water Quality Financing Administration and the lender will be executed. The amount and term of the agreement will be equal to the loan. Funds from the investment agreement will be used to provide a loan to the borrower at below market rates of interest. The below market rate of interest investment agreement is "linked" to the below market rate of interest loan.

The lender assumes all risk of default and neither the State nor the Department will be liable to reimburse the lender for any losses or expenses associated with linked deposit loans. This new program will go into effect October 1, 1998. For more information concerning "Linked Deposit" please contact the Water Quality Financing Administration at 410-631-3119.

Stephen Kraus is the Director of MDE's Water Quality Financing Administration.

PROPOSES DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO COUNTIES FOR TRANSIENT WATER SYSTEMS

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is proposing to delegate to counties oversight of federal and state regulations related to transient noncommunity water systems that serve 25 or more consumers per day, but not the same customers every day. Examples include restaurants, highway rest stops, churches, gas stations, motels and campgrounds. A facility that has 25 or more full-time employees would not fall into this category.

A county that accepts delegation would assume responsibility for ensuring completion of required water quality monitoring, tracking compliance with federal and state requirements, providing enforcement actions for violations of drinking water regulations with assistance and oversight from MDE, and conducting an on-site inspection of each system at least once every five years.

Most county environmental health programs in Maryland have traditionally maintained oversight of water quality monitoring program for these transient systems. This monitoring program also is a requirement of food

service permits, and most counties previously have combined the two programs. Some counties have established self-monitoring programs which require transient noncommunity systems to submit water quality results to them, while other counties use their staffs to conduct the sampling.

For any county that elects not to accept the delegation, MDE will implement a self-monitoring program which will require the systems to submit sample results directly to MDE. MDE is seeking to finalize delegation agreements with counties that accept the delegation by October 1, 1998.

Funding for this initiative comes from the drinking water state revolving loan fund set-aside grant. The 1997 request for this initiative was \$250,000. The proposed per county funding levels include a base amount per county of \$5,000 plus a per-system amount. The amount-per-system is based on a formula that factors in median household incomes of counties. The number of systems in each county is based on the current known inventory of active transient noncommunity water systems.

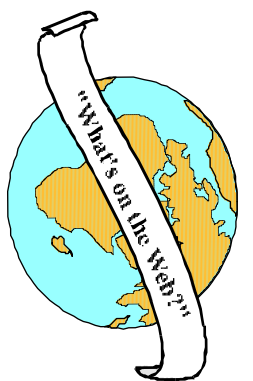
Comprehensive Nontidal Wetland Watershed Plan: A Guide for Local Governments

Available free of charge

This document offers step-by-step guidance on how to develop a wetland-based watershed management plan that may be approved by MDE and used to address certain regulatory and wetland management issues through the local government review process. Maryland's Nontidal Wetland Protection Act and Regulations specifically include provisions for using approved watershed plans to guide state nontidal wetlands permit decision.

To obtain a copy contact:

Water Management Administration
Nontidal Wetlands and
Waterways Division
2500 Broening Highway
Baltimore MD 21224



MDE's new recycling page contains:

Maryland recycling statistics;

Names, addresses, phone numbers of county recycling coordinators;

Tire playgrounds;

Location of county drop-off sites with addresses, phone numbers and a list of what they accept;

List of other recycling sites, including county recycling web pages.

<http://www.mde.state.md.us>



Maryland Department of the Environment
2500 Broening Highway
Baltimore MD 21224

Bulk Rate
US Postage
Paid
Rockville, MD
Permit No. 4212