

## ENERGY AND COASTAL ZONE ADMINISTRATION

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This Administration, created by order of the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources on July 1, 1975, and implemented by Chapter 320, Acts of 1976, includes all energy-related agencies in the Department of Natural Resources. The common purpose of these agencies is to evaluate the production and conservation of energy while keeping adverse environmental and fiscal effects to a minimum.

The four operating programs within the Administration are Power Plant Siting, Bureau of Mines, the Coastal Zone Program, and the Energy Policy Office. All four accomplish their tasks mainly through special and federal monies.

The Power Plant Siting Program, created by Chapter 31, Acts of 1971, is responsible for the administration of a long-range electric power plant environmental research program, assessing the impact of existing power plants, evaluating proposed sites, and acquiring standby sites for a land bank. Site evaluations calculate the impact of future power plants at proposed sites. The site evaluation work forms the basis of program recommendations to the Public Service Commission for conditions relating to the design, construction, and operation of a power plant that are necessary for the protection of the environment.

Research develops the understanding of Maryland's environmental resources and socio-economic structure necessary to site and operate power plants successfully with a maximum benefit to society and minimum detriment to the ecosystem.

Site acquisition identifies, investigates, acquires, and holds in a land bank an inventory of sites suitable for the construction and operation of power plants.

The Bureau of Mines has two distinct areas of responsibility: environmental control of active mines and restoration of abandoned mines.

**Active Mines:** The Bureau evaluates mining plans for proposed deep and strip coal mines. Environmental controls are established and reclamation plans for the land must be approved before the mining operation can begin. Active mines are

monitored for compliance with the law and agreement with the approved plans.

**Abandoned Mines:** Recent legislation makes possible the restoration of abandoned mines, which for decades have presented serious environmental problems. Money collected from a surcharge on mined coal is used to repair the environmental damage caused by abandoned mines. In addition, abandoned mines are reclaimed in conjunction with the active Mining Program.

The Coastal Zone Management Program has been transferred from the Water Resources Administration to the Energy and Coastal Zone Management Administration. The Governor in March 1973 designated the Department of Natural Resources as the agency authorized to receive and administer federal grants pursuant to the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. Subsequent to that the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources created the Coastal Zone Unit to develop a program to assure Maryland's continued participation in the protection and wise use of its coastal resources. In May 1978 the Governor signed an Executive Order stating that the Coastal Zone Management Program constitutes State policy with regard to activities in Maryland's coastal areas. The Program provides a framework for cooperative action among governmental agencies, the public, and industry to address significant projects in coastal areas. Federal approval of the program was received in September 1978 guaranteeing federal consistency with Maryland's coastal policies and federal funds to implement the Program.

The Energy Policy Office implements the State Energy Conservation Plan, funded under the National Energy Policy and Conservation Act. A State Energy Conservation Board was formed to assist in this effort. The Office sponsors a variety of training programs aimed at energy consumers in the residential, commercial, industrial, transportation, and government areas.

## LAND RECLAMATION COMMITTEE

*Chairperson:* Levio E. Zeni, *Administrator, Energy and Coastal Zone Administration*

*Executive Secretary:* Harry B. Buckley

Department of Natural Resources members: Robert V. Creter; George Gilmore; Robert Harvey; Stephen Layton

Craig Hartsock, *Allegany County Soil Conservation District Supervisor*; Shaun Sanders, *Garrett*