

State and the counties through which they run. As a result of poorly treated effluent discharged from sewage disposal plants and erosion and silt deposited in the rivers from construction and development on land in the Watershed, the Patuxent River and Severn River are being polluted and despoiled to a degree that fish, marine life, and recreational use of the rivers are being adversely affected and curtailed.

[8-1203] 4-303.

Every person who disposes of or treats sewage in the Watershed shall anticipate the need for advanced waste treatment and removal of nutrients, in providing land and planning construction of sewage treatment plants, so that effluent from sewage treatment plants is sufficiently treated to meet the effluent water quality standard for bacteriological values, dissolved oxygen, pH, and temperature conditions defined by the Secretary of [Health and Mental Hygiene] THE ENVIRONMENT. Every future sewage treatment plant located within the Watershed shall be constructed to conform with these standards.

[8-1204] 4-304.

(a) Any owner or operator of a sewage disposal plant which does not meet the prescribed water quality standards, within 180 days' notice of failure to meet these standards, shall submit an improved sewage disposal plan to the Department of [Health and Mental Hygiene] THE ENVIRONMENT for approval. The Department of [Health and Mental Hygiene] THE ENVIRONMENT, within ten days, shall refer copies of the plan to the appropriate county governing unit of the county in which the plant is located, the Department of Natural Resources and, in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, for review and recommendation. They have 30 days to respond to the Department of [Health and Mental Hygiene] THE ENVIRONMENT.

(b) The sewage plan shall indicate necessary improvements required to insure that purity of the effluent meets required standards, and shall include a time schedule to construct necessary improvements within three years.

(c) If the applicant or any unit requests, the Department of [Health and Mental Hygiene] THE ENVIRONMENT shall hold a hearing on the plan after at least ten days' notice to the applicant and units to which the referral was made. The Department of [Health and Mental Hygiene] THE ENVIRONMENT shall approve the plan within 90 days after the owner or operator submits the plan. The Department of [Health and Mental Hygiene] THE ENVIRONMENT may make any amendment or modification it determines, in accordance with the prescribed standards.