



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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August 13, 2003

Fellow Marylanders:

Attached is the second issue of the Maryland Department of the Environment's, *EnviroMatters*. In this issue we highlight two of the Department's five on-going initiatives: improving efficiency and effectiveness and air quality restoration.

The first is accomplished through our first-ever participation in a streamlined web-based EPA grant application process. Anytime we can streamline our efforts, reduce paperwork and save steps means we have more time to focus on protecting the environment and driving change at MDE.

Unique and challenging issues regarding Maryland air quality are highlighted through our work on the ozone transport commission. MDE is gaining momentum every day on this issue, and we took a big step in our participation with this multi-state commission. Listening, communicating and working together are critical to addressing complicated regional air issues.

We hope you will continue to find the information contained in the publication useful, and please contact us if you want additional information on either of the topics covered in this issue of *EnviroMatters*.

Enjoy this second issue of *EnviroMatters*. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Kendl P. Philbrick
Acting Secretary

August 13, 2003

MDE First To Use EPA's Web-Based Grant Management System

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is the first state agency in the U.S. to utilize an EPA web-based automated grant inputting system that will save MDE time and effort over traditional paper-based processes. MDE also submitted to EPA a consolidated grant, a new process which bundles what were once separate applications into one proposal, realizing administrative savings, simplified accounting procedures and increased programmatic flexibility.

Using the web-based process, MDE saves time and effort by inputting the application into the EPA database directly, rather than printing, circulating for approval and signoff, and submitting a paper grant package to EPA. For FY '04 and beyond, MDE will be submitting all grant funding requests to EPA through this procedure.

The "bundling" of four categorical water quality protection grants into one grant submission included the following:

1. Water Pollution Control - Section 106 Base Program
2. Water Pollution Control - Section 106 Groundwater Program
3. State Underground Water Source Protection - Underground Injection Control Program
4. Biological Nutrient Removal Project associated with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program (NPDES)

MDE Takes Leadership Position In Ozone Transport Debate

Each summer ground-level ozone levels in Maryland exceed the public health standard set by the EPA. While Maryland has done much in recent years to reduce ozone-forming emissions within the state, reducing emissions from in-state sources alone is not enough. Pollutants emitted from upwind states and transported into Maryland contribute greatly to our ozone problem. Specifically, emissions from large, mid-western coal-fired power plants affect Maryland's air quality, and regulators can not now legally require these sources to control their emissions. Federal level assistance is needed.

There are several legislative proposals that have been introduced in Congress that would reduce emissions from power plants nationwide, each of which would assist MDE's efforts to combat ozone and other pollution problems. The Administration's bill, known as the Clear Skies Initiative, was introduced in Congress. Sens. Tom Carper (DE) and James Jeffords (VT) have introduced separate bills that will bring about varying reductions in emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and mercury. Therefore, MDE will participate in multi-pollutant strategy debates on the national level and among state environmental and air program directors.

For more information about **EnviroMatters**,
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