



**Annual Report on Violations of
Sediment and Erosion Control Laws
and Regulations, and
Building and Grading Permits
FY2023**

Submitted by the Maryland Department of the Environment

Submitted March 2024

To the Maryland General Assembly,
President of the Senate, and
Speaker of the House.

To the Governor of Maryland.

Reporting Period Fiscal Year 2023



Wes Moore
Governor

Aruna Miller
Lieutenant Governor

Serena McIlwain
Secretary

Suzanne Dorsey
Deputy Secretary

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I. Introduction

Under the Environment Article, Title 4, Subtitle 1, the Maryland Department of the Environment (Department or MDE) is required to implement an erosion and sediment control program to control sediment-laden runoff from land disturbing activities. The law allows for the delegation of enforcement authority to local jurisdictions found capable of enforcing compliance with the provisions of this subtitle, and that have the capability comparable to that of the Department in terms of laws and procedures, manpower, equipment, and overall effectiveness. Obligations for the delegation include reporting the number of permits issued and violations that occurred within the jurisdiction.

In 2019, Chapters 517 and 518 of the Acts of 2019 (HB 703/SB 505) required that delegated jurisdictions provide additional reporting to the Department on environmental violations in the Critical Area and Sensitive Areas of the state. In addition, the legislation requires the Department to publish the data submitted by the jurisdictions and submit the data to the Governor and General Assembly on or before March 1 of each year. To meet these requirements, the Department revised its data collection and submission process for the delegation of enforcement authority to reflect the 2019 law. These changes included developing an internet-based data collection form that was shared with the delegated jurisdictions. This form included two new sections on inspection and enforcement in the Critical Area and Sensitive Areas.

This *Annual Report on Environmental Violations, 2023*, published March 2024 (Annual Report), fulfills the requirement of §4-802(d), Environment Article, Subtitle 8 of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*. The following summarizes the data collected by the Department from the delegated jurisdictions.

II. Primary Information

The enforcement of erosion and sediment control laws and regulations has been delegated by the Department to 22 jurisdictions (see Table 1) that include 13 counties,¹ 8 municipalities, and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC). Delegation is granted to each jurisdiction for a period of 2 years, unless renewed by the Department. In the year preceding the expiration of the delegation authority, the Department conducts a review of each jurisdiction’s program to determine if it should be granted continued delegation authority.

Table 1. Delegated Jurisdictions for Erosion and Sediment Control

Counties:		Municipalities:	
1.	Anne Arundel	1.	Aberdeen
2.	Baltimore City ¹	2.	Annapolis
3.	Baltimore	3.	Bel Air
4.	Calvert ²	4.	Bowie
5.	Carroll	5.	Gaithersburg
6.	Charles	6.	Greenbelt
7.	Frederick	7.	Laurel
8.	Harford	8.	Rockville
9.	Howard	Other:	
10.	Kent	1.	Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC)
11.	Montgomery		
12.	Prince George’s		
13.	Worcester		

¹ Because of its geographical size and population, Baltimore City is assessed in this report as a county.

² Calvert County has been delegated enforcement authority for single-lot residential construction only.

III. Summary of Environmental Violations in Maryland

Data collected from the 22 delegated jurisdictions are presented in Tables 2 through 8. The summary presented below covers data submitted by all 22 jurisdictions for FY23 (i.e., July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023).

Permit Information

- A total of 4,318 major permits were issued.
 - Major permits typically include grading, building, and sediment control associated with an engineered erosion and sediment control plan.
 - The total disturbed acreage for the major permits was 11,352 acres.
- A total of 7,021 other permits were issued.
 - Other permits typically include those associated with a standard erosion and sediment control plan for minor earth disturbances or single-lot residential agreements in lieu of requiring custom designed or engineered plans.
 - The total disturbed acreage for these other issued permits was 1,648 acres.

**NOTE: In the following tables the use of “-” indicates that data were not reported by the delegated jurisdiction.*

Table 2. Total Number of Permits Issued

Jurisdiction	Major Permits				Other Permits			
	Issued		Active		Issued		Active	
	# of Permits	Disturbed Acres	# of Permits	Disturbed Acres	# of Permits	Disturbed Acres	# of Permits	Disturbed Acres
Counties:								
Anne Arundel	494	441	966	1,493	236	23	150	12
Baltimore City	102	290	146	562	420	26	73	165
Baltimore	183	2,639	296	2,639	2,633	-	2,633	-
Calvert	201	70	622	383	0	0	N/A	N/A
Carroll	131	841	123	237	299	368	756	237
Charles	1,211	1,179	1,339	4,418	24	974	51	1,762
Frederick	60	651	135	2,156	898	99	159	55
Harford	311	1,590	42	800	63	105	208	124
Howard	154	329	395	2,084	33	35	59	45
Kent*	55	15	40	13	352	3	255	2
Montgomery	524	597	1,565	3,413	32	12	32	12
Prince George’s	188	1,797	689	7,326	-	-	-	-
Worcester	204	181	123	117	0	0	0	0
Municipalities:								
Aberdeen	5	56	11	105	13	2	4	0
Annapolis	12	22	55	77	0	0	0	0
Bel Air	3	13	2	13	0	0	0	0
Bowie	4	76	4	548	0	0	0	0

Jurisdiction	Major Permits				Other Permits			
	Issued		Active		Issued		Active	
	# of Permits	Disturbed Acres	# of Permits	Disturbed Acres	# of Permits	Disturbed Acres	# of Permits	Disturbed Acres
Gaithersburg	5	137	13	218	22	3	4	1
Greenbelt	19	8	53	89	0	0	0	0
Laurel	3	26	8	42	1	1	1	1
Rockville	9	70	7	60	0	0	0	0
Other:								
WSSC	272	362	162	213	11	N/A	0	N/A
TOTALS	4,318	11,352	6,928	26,435	7,021	1,648	4,700	2,416

*Kent County reported information for the Calendar Year 2023

Site Inspections and Enforcement Efforts

Inspections

- A total of 81,381 site inspections were performed to monitor earth disturbance activities.
- The inspections were performed by 109 inspectors.

Violations

- A total of 3,997 sediment control violation notices were issued.
- A total of 3,577 building and grading violation notices were issued.
- A total of 575 stop work orders were issued.

Fines and Compliance Assistance

- The sum of \$3,988,337 was collected in fines or securities.
- A total of 35 court cases were reported.
- 1,488 sediment control complaints were received.
- Assistance was provided to correct violations in 2,420 instances.

Table 3. Total Inspection and Enforcement Data - Violations and Fines

Jurisdiction	Sediment Control		Violation Notices Issued		Stop Work Orders Issued	Fines or Securities	
	Inspectors	Inspections Performed	Sediment Control	Building and Grading		Penalties	Amount (\$)
Counties:							
Anne Arundel	12	10,494	959	1,256	12	12	10,000
Baltimore City	5	3,161	30	30	8	27	1,600
Baltimore	5	8,050	1,103	1,103	275	0	0
Calvert	5	3,050	105	105	4	0	0
Carroll	5	3,154	290	137	26	0	0
Charles	6	5,230	15	8	15	15	7,875
Frederick	3	2,607	226	226	18	5	11,000
Harford	5	3,007	242	242	45	1	10,000
Howard	11	7,085	111	111	7	0	0
Kent*	2	380	6	4	4	0	0
Montgomery	11	19,814	316	206	92	35	25,550
Prince George's	17	9,626	172	15	33	59	68,250
Worcester	2	545	41	37	29	4	4,500
Municipalities:							
Aberdeen	1	231	5	0	3	0	0
Annapolis	3	1,518	78	60	0	3	1,500
Bel Air	1	82	19	1	1	0	0
Bowie	2	355	70	0	0	0	0
Gaithersburg	3	223	16	32	0	0	0
Greenbelt	2	61	0	0	1	0	0
Laurel	2	70	4	4	2	5	3,837,062
Rockville	1	689	96	0	0	7	9,750
Other:							
WSSC	5	1,949	93	N/A	0	5	1,250
TOTALS	109	81,381	3,997	3,577	575	178	3,988,337

*Kent County reported information for the Calendar Year 2023

Table 4. Total Inspection and Enforcement Data - Court Cases and Complaints Received

Jurisdiction	Court Cases		Sediment Control Complaints	Compliance Assistance Provided to Correct Violations
	Number	Awarded (\$)		
Counties:				
Anne Arundel	0	0	407	550
Baltimore City	0	0	36	5
Baltimore	4	500	100	-
Calvert	0	0	1	1
Carroll	0	0	87	1
Charles	0	0	30	0
Frederick	2	2	182	182
Harford	1	0	84	0
Howard	0	0	52	490
Kent*	0	0	3	21
Montgomery	28	15,550	319	920
Prince George's	0	0	89	58
Worcester	0	0	54	0
Municipalities:				
Aberdeen	0	0	3	0
Annapolis	0	0	18	0
Bel Air	0	0	1	0
Bowie	0	0	-	-
Gaithersburg	0	0	3	0
Greenbelt	0	0	0	2
Laurel	0	0	2	0
Rockville	0	0	10	96
Other:				
WSSC	0	0	7	94
TOTALS	35	16,052	1,488	2,420

*Kent County reported information for the Calendar Year 2023

Inspections and Enforcement in the Critical Area

- 11 jurisdictions indicated that they have Critical Area within their boundary.
- A total of 3,988 sediment control inspections were performed in the Critical Area.
- A total of 180 sediment control violation notices were issued.
- A total of 130 building and grading violation notices were issued.
- A total of 49 stop work orders were issued.
- The sum of \$1,556 was collected in fines or securities.
- There were no court cases.
- 67 complaints were received.
- The jurisdictions provided assistance to correct violations in 57 instances.

Table 5. Inspection and Enforcement Data for Critical Area - Violations and Fines

Jurisdiction	Critical Area within Jurisdiction	Total Number of Sediment Control Inspections	Violation Notices Issued		Stop Work Orders Issued	Fines or Securities	
			Sediment Control	Building and Grading		Number	Amount (\$)
Counties:							
Anne Arundel	Yes	1,927	90	43	12	0	0
Baltimore City	Yes	223	3	3	0	3	500
Baltimore	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Calvert	Yes	1,039	31	31	2	0	0
Carroll	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Charles	Yes	47	1	1	1	1	525
Frederick	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Harford	Yes	10	5	5	1	0	0
Howard	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kent*	Yes	85	0	6	2	0	0
Montgomery	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Prince George's	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Worcester	Yes	280	2	2	2	0	0
Municipalities:							
Aberdeen	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Annapolis	Yes	330	16	11	0	1	500

Jurisdiction	Critical Area within Jurisdiction	Total Number of Sediment Control Inspections	Violation Notices Issued		Stop Work Orders Issued	Fines or Securities	
			Sediment Control	Building and Grading		Number	Amount (\$)
Bel Air	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bowie	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gaithersburg	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Greenbelt	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Laurel	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rockville	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other:							
WSSC	Yes	21	5	N/A	0	0	0
TOTALS	11	3,988	180	130	49	35	1,556

*Kent County reported information for the Calendar Year 2023

Table 6. Total Inspection and Enforcement Data for Critical Area - Court Cases and Complaints Received

Jurisdiction	Court Cases		Sediment Control Complaints	Compliance Assistance Provided to Correct Violations
	Number	Awarded (\$)		
Counties:				
Anne Arundel	0	0	45	51
Baltimore City	0	0	0	0
Baltimore	-	-	-	-
Calvert	0	0	0	0
Carroll	-	-	-	-
Charles	0	0	8	0
Frederick	-	-	-	-
Harford	0	0	2	0
Howard	-	-	-	-
Kent*	0	0	1	1
Montgomery	-	-	-	-
Prince George's	0	0	0	0
Worcester	0	0	11	0
Municipalities:				
Aberdeen	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Jurisdiction	Court Cases		Sediment Control Complaints	Compliance Assistance Provided to Correct Violations
	Number	Awarded (\$)		
Annapolis	0	0	0	0
Bel Air	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bowie	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gaithersburg	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Greenbelt	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Laurel	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rockville	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other:				
WSSC	0	0	0	5
TOTALS	0	0	67	57

*Kent County reported information for the Calendar Year 2023

Inspections and Enforcement in Sensitive Areas

- 22 jurisdictions indicated that they have Sensitive Areas within their boundary.
- A total of 4,019 sediment control inspections were performed in Sensitive Areas.
- A total of 249 sediment control violation notices were issued.
- A total of 138 building and grading violation notices were issued.
- A total of 75 stop work orders were issued.
- The sum of \$251,430 was collected in fines or securities.
- There were 2 court cases.
- 108 complaints were received.
- The jurisdictions provided assistance to correct violations in 213 instances.

Table 7. Inspection and Enforcement Data for Sensitive Areas - Violations and Fines

Jurisdiction	Do You Have Any Sensitive Area(s)?	Total Number of Sediment Control Inspections	Violation Notices Issued		Stop Work Orders Issued	Fines or Securities	
			Sediment Control	Building and Grading		Number	Amount (\$)
Counties:							
Anne Arundel	Yes	348	63	29	47	0	0
Baltimore City	Yes	140	3	1	2	2	0
Baltimore	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Calvert	Yes	“N/A”	“N/A”	“N/A”	“N/A”	“N/A”	“N/A”
Carroll	Yes	369	41	1	4	0	0
Charles	Yes	472	1	0	1	1	525
Frederick	Yes	600	31	31	1	0	0
Harford	Yes	90	36	36	8	1	10,000
Howard	Yes	936	10	10	0	0	0
Kent*	Yes	10	0	0	0	0	0
Montgomery	Yes	340	4	3	1	0	0
Prince George’s	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Worcester	Yes	231	24	2	11	0	0

Jurisdiction	Do You Have Any Sensitive Area(s)?	Total Number of Sediment Control Inspections	Violation Notices Issued		Stop Work Orders Issued	Fines or Securities	
			Sediment Control	Building and Grading		Number	Amount (\$)
Municipalities:							
Aberdeen	Yes	10	0	0	0	0	0
Annapolis	Yes	188	25	25	0	0	0
Bel Air	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bowie	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gaithersburg	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenbelt	Yes	23	0	0	0	0	0
Laurel	Yes	40	0	0	0	1	239,405
Rockville	Yes	84	1	0	0	1	1,000
Other:							
WSSC	Yes	138	10	N/A	0	2	500
TOTALS	22	4,019	249	138	75	8	251,430

*Kent County reported information for the Calendar Year 2023

Table 8. Total Inspection and Enforcement Data for Sensitive Areas - Court Cases and Complaints Received

Jurisdiction	Court Cases		Sediment Control Complaints	Compliance Assistance Provided to Correct Violations
	Number	Awarded Cases (\$)		
Counties:				
Anne Arundel	0	0	63	125
Baltimore City	0	0	0	0
Baltimore	-	-	-	-
Calvert	"N/A"	"N/A"	"N/A"	"N/A"
Carroll	0	0	18	1
Charles	0	0	6	0
Frederick	0	0	4	4
Harford	1	0	10	0
Howard	0	0	1	69
Kent*	0	0	1	2
Montgomery	1	0	5	12
Prince George's	0	0	0	0
Worcester	0	0	0	0
Municipalities:				
Aberdeen	0	0	0	0
Annapolis	0	0	0	0
Bel Air	-	-	-	-
Bowie	0	0	0	0
Gaithersburg	0	0	0	0
Greenbelt	0	0	0	0
Laurel	0	0	0	0
Rockville	0	0	0	1
Other:				
WSSC	0	0	4	10
TOTALS	2	0	108	213

*Kent County reported information for the Calendar Year 2023

IV. Appendices

**Appendix A. Environment Article §4-802
Environmental Violations - Reporting Requirements**

§4-802.

- (a) (1) On or before January 1 each year, each jurisdiction that has delegated authority under Subtitle 1 of this title to enforce sediment and erosion control laws and regulations shall report to the Department on:
 - (i) The total number of cases alleging violations of:
 - 1. Sediment and erosion control laws and regulations; and
 - 2. Building and grading permits; and
 - (ii) The total number of cases alleging violations in the Critical Area of:
 - 3. Sediment and erosion control laws and regulations; and
 - 4. Building and grading permits.

- (2) The information reported to the Department under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include:
 - (i) The number and nature of:
 - 1. Formal complaints issued by the jurisdiction and whether the complaint is in the Critical Area;
 - 2. Stop work orders issued by the jurisdiction; and
 - 3. Alleged violations reported by citizens to the jurisdiction;
 - (ii) The number of court proceedings involving an alleged violation, including the final disposition of each court proceeding;
 - (iii) The dollar amount of fines levied and collected by the jurisdiction as a result of a violation;
 - (iv) The dollar amount of civil and criminal penalties imposed and collected as a result of a violation;
 - (v)
 - 1. Whether the jurisdiction provided compliance assistance to correct a violation and the nature of that assistance; and
 - 2. Whether the compliance assistance provided by the jurisdiction led to compliance; and
 - (vi) The number of inspectors and other staff of the jurisdiction assigned to inspection and enforcement of:
 - 1. Title 8, Subtitle 18 of the Natural Resources Article;
 - 2. Sensitive areas ordinances;
 - 3. 100-year floodplain ordinances;
 - 4. Sediment and erosion control laws and regulations; and
 - 5. Building and grading permits.


Appendix B. Instructions to Jurisdictions on Using the Web Application to Submit the Requested Data

Step 1: Navigate to the Department’s Application Page:

The screenshot displays the Maryland Department of the Environment website. At the top, there is a search bar and a navigation menu with links for Home, About MDE, Air, Land, Water, Environmental Justice, Marylander, Permits, and Contact Us. The main header features the MARYLAND Department of the Environment logo and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. A left sidebar contains a list of navigation options: Stormwater, Dam Safety, and Flood Management Home; Soil Erosion and Sediment Control; Stormwater Management; Dam Safety; Plan Review for State and Federal Projects; MS4 Program; Flood Management; and Recent. The main content area is titled 'Delegation of Erosion and Sediment Control Enforcement Authority' and features a '2023 Application Form' section. This section includes instructions to use an online form and an important note about the 'Anonymous Login Code'. Below the application form, there are three promotional boxes: 'Human Trafficking GET HELP' with contact information for the National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888 and 233733), 'Customer Service Promise' with a 'Take Our Survey' button, and 'Help Stop Fraud in State Government' with a 'More Information' button. The footer contains copyright information, contact links, and the department's address: 1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21230, along with phone, TTY, and fax numbers.

Step 2: Follow the steps to generate a login code:

SELECTSURVEY.NET V5.0



Enter Anonymous Code

Check if you have no code:
(Then click Submit)

SUBMIT

Powered by SelectSurvey.NETv5.024.001
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Step 3: Copy the Code found on the next screen and proceed to Login:

Delegation of Erosion and Sediment Control Enforcement Authority Application - 2023

Anonymous Login Code: m6M26651091 [Code Entry Page](#) Page 1 of 7

Save this code which is required to update your response at a later time.

This is the Login Code

The Maryland Department of the Environment, Water and Science Administration (the Department) is pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for continued delegation of erosion and sediment control enforcement authority for the fiscal year 2024. The application process and application form reflect regulatory changes enacted in March of 2019 that require new reporting on environmental violations in sensitive areas of the State. Details on the Law can be found [here](#).

Instructions:

Please make sure to copy your Anonymous Login Code displayed at the top of this form. This code is needed so you may be able to resume or update your entries/responses on the form over a period of 30 days.

You may leave the form using the **Cancel** button and use your Login Code to get back into the form. To re-enter the form, use the "this online form" link found here:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/StormwaterManagementProgram/Pages/ESC-enf-delegation.aspx>

Then click "Code Entry Page" to enter your Login Code.

All questions with a red asterisk (*) are required.

Clicking the **Done** button at the end of this Application Form will trigger recording of all your final responses. It will also trigger sending you an email (using the email address you provided on the form) with a copy of all your responses.

1. Jurisdiction*
2. Email address*
3. Full Name of Contact Person*
4. Phone*