



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Kendl P. Philbrick
Acting Secretary

Michael S. Steele
Lt. Governor

August 1, 2003

Fellow Marylanders,

Attached is the inaugural issue of the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) latest publication, *EnviroMatters*. We have designed *EnviroMatters* to be a clear, concise, and easily readable newsletter for individuals, such as you, that have an interest in the work of MDE.

In this premier issue we highlight the five initiatives recently unveiled as the primary focus of much of MDE's work in the coming months. Subsequent issues of *EnviroMatters* will deal with these initiatives in greater detail, as well as provide information on other important work being done by the Department.

We hope you will find the information contained in the publication useful, and we certainly want you to contact us if you want any additional information about a topic covered - or if you want a particular topic covered. We also want to hear from you about the publication itself. We want it to be an effective communication tool, and we need to know if we are serving your needs. Look for updated information in subsequent issues on the progress this Department is making on its mission to protect the environment.

Enjoy this inaugural issue of *EnviroMatters*, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Kendl P. Philbrick
Acting Secretary

Acting Secretary Philbrick Unveils Five Maryland Department of the Environment Initiatives

Kendl P. Philbrick, recently unveiled five major initiatives designed to be the primary focus of work within the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Progress on these initiatives will be measured internally, utilizing a "report card" where key managers provide feedback on specific milestones and accomplishments to be achieved by December of 2003. For members of the General Assembly, local government, environmental groups, the press and the public, accomplishments will be reported in **EnviroMatters** on a regular basis.

1 Land Redevelopment and Community Revitalization

Brownfields and Voluntary Cleanup Program Reforms - In cooperation with the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), initiate a review of the current Brownfields Program to bring properties into productive use.

Lead Poisoning Prevention - MDE will continue to focus its efforts on accreditation and oversight of lead contractors, maintaining a registry of rental properties, blood surveillance, and ensuring effective inspection and enforcement.

2 Water Quality Restoration and Protection

Chesapeake Bay Restoration - MDE will continue to actively support, participate and contribute to the Chesapeake Bay Program by participating in all Bay Cabinet meetings and work with other appropriate forums that deal with restoring the Bay.

Water Pollution Control - Address point sources and non-point source pollution by taking necessary steps, in conjunction with MDP, to identify and obtain increased federal funding to help support Biological Nutrient Removal and Enhanced Nutrient Removal upgrades at Wastewater Treatment Plants and reduce Sanitary Sewer Overflows and Combined Sewer Overflows.

Water Resources Management - MDE will work closely with the Governor's Advisory Committee on the Management and Protection of the State's Water Resources to assess the status of Maryland's water resources, and by May 31, 2004, recommend to the Governor additional actions, studies, policies, regulations or laws necessary to assure that the management and protection of the State's water resources are conducted in a manner consistent with their long-term sustainable use and protection.

3 Air Quality Restoration and Protection

Participate in national multi-pollutant strategy debates with the US EPA and multi-state organizations, such as the Ozone Transport Commission, aimed at reducing power plant emissions of NO_x, SO₂, and Hg from upwind areas by pursuing stricter upwind controls of NO_x, SO₂ and Hg to reduce atmospheric deposition of these compounds into the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.

4 Improve Efficiency and Effectiveness

Improve MDE's services and responsiveness by improving communications, through printed and electronic means, regarding MDE's permitting processes, deliverables and decisions. MDE will continue progress on a Department-wide database to consolidate information in one place for a wide-range of permitting activities.

5 State and Federal Relations and Outreach

Complete at least two meetings with members of the Maryland Congressional delegation for the purpose of representing the Ehrlich Administration's environmental agenda and to maximize federal assistance for state environmental programs, and to work with the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) and MDE's Environmental Justice Program to heighten awareness and develop a vision of collaborative planning, economic development, land use, public health, and environmental protection.