

8.1 Appendix A – Data Solicitation

April 16, 2001

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Department of the Environment (MDE) are respectively preparing reports on water quality conditions in the State and a listing of its impaired waters. These reports are required by the federal Clean Water Act (§305(b) and 303(d), respectively); the next reports must be completed by April 2002. Although a number of State agency programs provide data for these efforts, there are many other water monitoring efforts in Maryland conducted by local and federal agencies, businesses, researchers, schools, and community groups that have water quality data that may be useful for these State efforts.

Your group/agency has been identified as a potential source of water quality data that may be useful in assessing water quality conditions in Maryland. Our interests are focused on specific parameters for which there are water quality criteria (e.g., water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, fecal coliform bacteria) defined in State regulations (COMAR§ 26.08.02.03).

Other field measures such as salinity, habitat conditions and field observations of the environment as well as measures of nutrient, chlorophyll and alkalinity levels and information about benthic macroinvertebrate and fish communities also are useful in characterizing water quality conditions. DNR and MDE plan to share water quality data provided and assessment methods to ensure that both efforts are consistent.

If your group has collected water quality information in Maryland within the past five years (1997-present), and if that information is readily available and you are willing to share this information with the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources, please complete the attached contact form that follows (or attached in Microsoft Word and WordPerfect formats). Return this form to us via mail, facsimile or e-mail by July 15, 2001. We will be in contact with you to find out more about your water monitoring efforts and to discuss how we may receive your information.

If you have any questions about this effort, feel free to contact either of us for more information.

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