

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

IMPACT OF STATE BUDGET CUTS
BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

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Eighteen positions were lost on 30 October 1992 in the Baltimore City Health Department's Division of Environmental Health, representing over 35% of its staff.

Listed below are summaries of activities, most of which are mandated by federal, State, and local laws, prior to the October 1992 cutback. Activities marked with an asterisk (*) can no longer be done due to the budget cuts.

For those activities continued the response times for complaints and requests have lengthened. Also, we have been forced to become reactive rather than pro-active. Due to seniority rights in the layoff process, retraining of remaining personnel has slowed down the continuing activities.

Community & Industrial Hygiene

- * - Monitoring drinking water quality of the municipal water system
- * - Inspection and approval of interstate vessel watering points
- * - Water sampling at meat and poultry plants
- * - Inspection of marinas
- * - Review and inspections pertaining to change of use and occupancy requests and zoning appeals
- * - Pre-demolition assessments for asbestos and other hazardous materials in City-owned houses and buildings
- * - General environmental health complaint inspections concerning drinking water, sewage, medical waste, and illegal dumping
- * - Investigations of complaints and giving advice concerning rats, mosquitoes, birds, ticks, fleas, flies, cockroaches, bees, wasps, bats, etc.
- * - Collection and disposal of illegally discarded needles
- * - Investigation of complaints concerning air pollution, odors, and visible emissions from State-permitted facilities
- * - Review, engineering calculations, inspection, and registration of small air pollution sources (dry cleaners, paint shops, etc.)
- * - Investigation of spills, dumping, and improper storage of hazardous materials
- * - Investigation for asbestos in residences and businesses, as requested by occupants
- * - Investigation of complaints concerning workplace problems such as poor ventilation, sick building syndrome, insanitary conditions, and safety

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- * - Response to complaints pertaining to residential indoor air quality, odors, and insanitary conditions
- Inspection and licensing of all public and commercial swimming pools and spas
- Review and issuance of well permits
- Inspection and licensing of tattoo shops
- Licensing and regulating private solid waste haulers
- Conducting percolation tests for on-site sewage disposal systems
- General investigation of air pollution complaints from other than State-permitted facilities
- Response to complaints concerning mechanical noise

Food and Institutional Facilities

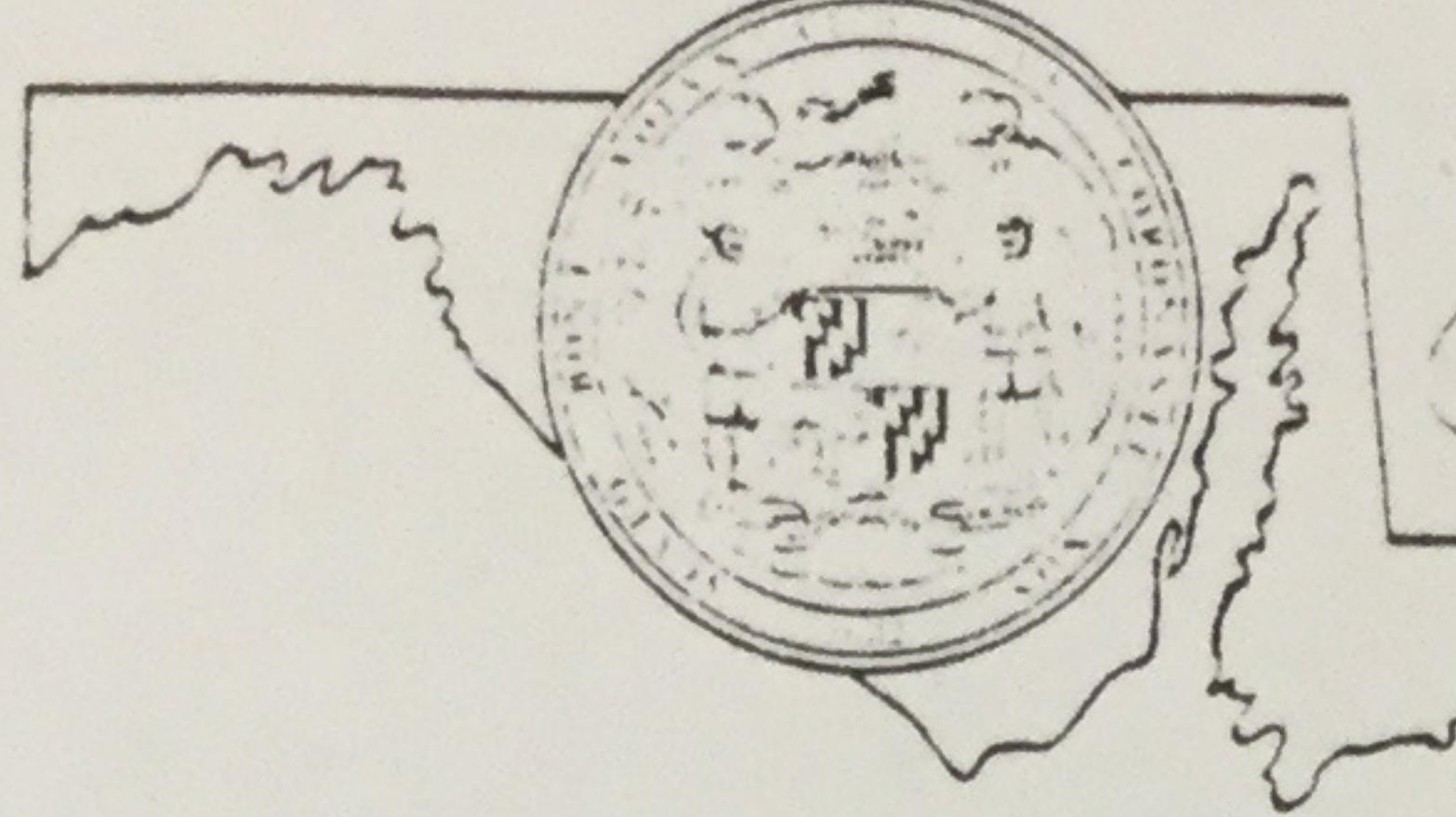
- * - General environmental health complaint inspections at all institutional facilities (schools, hospitals, nursing homes, correctional facilities, group homes, shelters, etc.)
- * - Inspection and licensing of adult day care centers for the elderly and medically handicapped
- * - Inspection of all child and adult foster homes
- * - Inspections of individual and group homes for the mentally and developmentally disabled, alcoholics, and substance abusers.
- * - Inspections of post-secondary, proprietary schools
 - Food facilities inspections
 - Food permits processing
 - Construction plans review
 - Foodborne outbreak investigations
 - Institutional (hospitals, schools, nursing homes, correctional facilities, shelters, soup kitchens, etc.) food service permits and inspections
 - Inspection of all family day care homes and child day care centers

Rabies Control

- Health and community education
- Animal bite investigations
- Conducting rabies vaccination clinics

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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William Donald Schaefer
Governor

Secretary

On July 1, 1987, the Maryland Department of the Environment will become the State's primary environmental protection agency. A bill signed into law by Governor William Donald Schaefer created the new Department by removing the Office of Environmental Programs (OEP) from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and combining it with certain programs from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

All existing programs in OEP's Air, Waste, and Water administrations will become part of the new Department, as will the three support groups--Administrative Services, Planning and Analysis, and the Science and Health Advisory Group. The Division of Radiation Control and the Noise Control Section, now in OEP's Community Health Program, will also join the Governor's newly-created operation. All other Community Health programs, including Food and Milk Control and Community Services, will remain in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Additionally, three key programs formerly in DNR will also become part of the new Department: the Oil Control Division, plus the Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management Programs.

For now, all programs in the Department of Environment will remain in their current locations. The Air (including Noise Control), Waste, and Water programs will be headquartered on the second floor of the O'Conor Building at 201 West Preston Street. Radiation Control will continue to be housed in the Hecht Company Towers at 118 North Howard Street, as will Water Management's Municipal and Construction Grants and Permits Program. Oil Control, Erosion and Sediment Control, and Stormwater Management will remain in the Tawes State Office Building in Annapolis.

In order to better serve you, a new Department receptionist (301-225-1250) will field calls from those of you unsure about whom to call. And, as always, the Public Affairs Office (301-225-5747) is ready to provide you with the right name and number when you need it.

We look forward to strengthening the excellent relationships we have today, and working together tomorrow to make Maryland's Environment a source of pride for all its citizens!