Wastewater treatment, regulation and financing in Maryland

> Robert Summers Secretary Maryland Department of the Environment

Maryland is home to 5 million people

Living in our cities ...



... and in the suburbs

Sewage disposal systems in Maryland's rural areas

Then ...

and now



Regulation of onsite sewage disposal

- Responsibility for regulation delegated by the State to local health departments
- Objective to protect the public health
 - Prevent exposure to raw sewage to prevent transmission of disease, odors, etc.
 - Ensure surface waters, groundwater and drinking water wells are protected
- Homeowners and businesses pay for their own systems and pay for septage pumping and disposal
 - \$5,000 \$7,000 per home, plus \$100 per year for pumping and disposal of septage

Septage is pumped and hauled by truck to a treatment plant or to be used as a soil amendment on cropland



Sewage treatment in our cities



Combined Sewer System



Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems



Sewage treatment plants



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Waste Water Treatment

- Most waste water treatment facilities use biological processes to remove suspended solids and BOD
- Primary treatment screening, sedimentation, floatation
- Secondary treatment biological treatment systems (trickling filters, activated sludge, etc.)

A variety of different sizes and technologies are employed in different parts of the State





Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades

• The majority of Maryland's 66 targeted wastewater treatment plants have been upgraded with the Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) technology.

• Nutrient loading has been reduced by over 50% since 1985.

With Bay Restoration Fund grants, Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) upgrades of major sewage treatment plants are currently underway.

> • When completed, nutrient loading will be reduced by over 70%





In areas where land is available, spray irrigation using treated wastewater is used to grow crops and recharge the groundwater table



Municipal and industrial point sources in Maryland

Facilities with Active NPDES Permitted Outfalls



Biological Nutrient Removal and Enhanced Nutrient Removal



Implementation of basic pollution control measures

Construction grants program for public wastewater treatment systems (up to 85%) State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) \diamond very low to 0% interest depending on ability to pay



CWSRF-- A Revolving Fund

State Revolving Fund

Federal Capitalization Provides Initial Funding

CWSRF Provides Low-Interest Loans



States Match Federal Capitalization Grants (20%)

Repayments to CWSRF Become Available for New Loans

Financing basic sewage treatment

- Homeowners and businesses pay monthly, quarterly or annual fees to municipality (e.g. \$155 to \$615 per year) to pay for basic debt service and O&M
- Businesses pay surcharge for higher BOD or TSS load in some areas

Financing Advanced Wastewater Treatment

BNR cost-share grants 50%:50%

 (State-local, some federal)
 Financed by general obligation bonds and State property tax

 ENR Grants (100% State) – Bay Restoration Fund

 Financed by \$5/month State surcharge on sewer bills