



Violations of Erosion and Sediment Control Laws and Regulations, and Building and Grading Permits

2024 Annual Report

Maryland Department of the Environment

Submitted April 2 2025

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Table of Contents

I. Introduction	1
II. Primary Information	2
III. Summary of Environmental Violations in Maryland	3
Permit Information	3
Site Inspections and Enforcement Efforts	4
Inspections and Enforcement in the Critical Area	7
Inspections and Enforcement in Sensitive Areas	10
IV. Appendices	13
Appendix A. Environment Article §4-802 Environmental Violations - Reporting Requirements	14
Appendix B. Instructions to Jurisdictions on Using the Web Application to Submit the Requested Data	15

List of Tables

Table 1. Delegated Jurisdictions for Erosion and Sediment Control	2
Table 2. Total Number of Permits Issued	3
Table 3. Total Inspection and Enforcement Data - Violations and Fines	5
Table 4. Total Inspection and Enforcement Data - Court Cases and Complaints Received	6
Table 5. Inspection and Enforcement Data for Critical Area - Violations and Fines	7
Table 6. Total Inspection and Enforcement Data for Critical Area - Court Cases and Complaints Received	8
Table 7. Inspection and Enforcement Data for Sensitive Areas - Violations and Fines	10
Table 8. Total Inspection and Enforcement Data for Sensitive Areas - Court Cases and Complaints Received	12

Executive Summary

In 2019, §4-802(d), Environment Article, Subtitle 8 of the *Annotated Code of Maryland* required that local delegated jurisdictions for erosion and sediment control enforcement authority provide additional reporting to the Department on environmental violations in the Critical Area and Sensitive Areas. In addition, the legislation requires the Department to publish the data from the jurisdictions and submit them to the Governor and General Assembly on or before March 1 of each year.

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, 2024* (Annual Report), summarizes these data and fulfills the requirement of §4-802(d), Environment Article, Subtitle 8 of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*.

Key Findings:

- Inspections: A total of 75,542 site inspections were performed to monitor earth disturbance activities by 111 inspectors.
- Violations: A total of 4,189 sediment control violation notices, 2,600 building and grading violation notices, and 1,359 stop work orders were issued.
- Fines and Compliance Assistance: 1,384 sediment control complaints were received, assistance (in lieu of enforcement) was provided to correct violations in 2,030 instances, 65 court cases were reported, and the sum of \$194,125 was collected in fines or securities.

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, 2024*, published March 2025 (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 counties¹, 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 is 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 FY24 (i.e., July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024).

Permit Information

- A total of 5,890 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 8,088 acres.
- A total of 13,978 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 2,406 acres.

**NOTE: In the following tables, the use of “-” indicates that data were not reported by the delegated jurisdiction. The use of “N/A” means that the data category is non-applicable to the 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	315	400	914	1,603	183	21	140	16
Baltimore City	77	160	134	500	187	30	96	257
Baltimore*	2,546	2,639	2,688	2,639	10,404	-	-	-
Calvert	470	137	452	137	0	0	0	0
Carroll	105	476	94	497	323	838	585	497
Charles	939	606	1,171	3,894	27	874	60	1,905
Frederick	42	492	126	2,162	836	80	98	33
Harford	39	624	111	1,817	140	354	314	405
Howard	92	266	290	1,565	53	87	42	65
Kent	44	16	31	19	230	3	200	2
Montgomery**	513	470	1,496	3,279	34	23	34	23
Prince George’s	92	1,092	311	1,093	20	80	6	9
Worcester	238	212	131	123	0	0	0	0
Municipalities:								
Aberdeen	3	21	10	202	12	1	5	1
Annapolis	18	8	48	83	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
Bel Air	1	1	4	36	0	0	0	0
Bowie*	7	9	12	402	68	14	23	N/A
Gaithersburg	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Greenbelt	3	21	3	10	0	0	0	0
Laurel	58	66	58	66	1,450	0	29	0
Rockville	15	8	39	102	0	0	0	0
Other:								
WSSC	272	362	162	213	11	N/A	0	N/A
TOTALS	5,890	8,088	8,286	20,443	13,978	2,406	1,632	3,213

*Baltimore County and the City of Bowie reported information for the Calendar Year 2023

**Montgomery County reported information for the Calendar Year 2024

Site Inspections and Enforcement Efforts

Inspections

- A total of 75,542 site inspections were performed to monitor earth disturbance activities.
- The inspections were performed by 111 inspectors.

Violations

- A total of 4,189 sediment control violation notices were issued.
- A total of 2,600 building and grading violation notices were issued.
- A total of 1,359 stop work orders were issued.

Fines and Compliance Assistance

- The sum of \$7,854,013 was collected in fines or securities.
- A total of 65 court cases were reported.
- 1,384 sediment control complaints were received.
- Assistance was provided to correct violations in 2,030 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	10,785	1,440	1,708	483	36	31,050
Baltimore City	5	2,938	87	87	2	14	18,200
Baltimore*	6	6,714	1,116	-	544	1	500
Calvert	5	2,310	22	22	0	0	0
Carroll	5	2,806	206	128	30	0	0
Charles	6	3,076	21	10	21	21	11,025
Frederick	3	2,564	216	216	7	0	0
Harford	4	2,376	190	18	113	1	10,000
Howard	9	6,060	44	44	3	0	0
Kent	2	975	-	5	3	0	0
Montgomery**	11	19,550	266	197	104	41	32,850
Prince George's	20	9,925	179	70	23	93	70,000
Worcester	2	537	48	43	17	0	0
Municipalities:							
Aberdeen	1	278	37	0	3	0	0
Annapolis	2	1,170	52	34	0	4	2,000
Bel Air	1	171	77	0	0	0	0
Bowie*	2	421	15	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gaithersburg	2	212	5	17	0	0	0
Greenbelt	3	106	9	0	5	3	2,250
Laurel	4	60	1	1	0	0	0
Rockville	1	559	65	0	1	9	15,000
Other:							
WSSC	5	1,949	93	N/A	0	5	1,250
TOTALS	111	75,542	4,189	2,600	1,359	228	194,125

*Baltimore County and the City of Bowie reported information for the Calendar Year 2023

**Montgomery County reported information for the Calendar Year 2024

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	27	31,050	523	635
Baltimore City	0	0	17	1
Baltimore*	2	0	-	-
Calvert	0	0	0	0
Carroll	0	0	96	1
Charles	0	0	33	0
Frederick	0	0	110	110
Harford	0	0	62	0
Howard	0	0	75	262
Kent	0	0	4	30
Montgomery**	36	17,400	345	814
Prince George's	0	-	33	-
Worcester	0	0	43	0
Municipalities:				
Aberdeen	0	0	4	0
Annapolis	0	0	19	0
Bel Air	0	0	0	0
Bowie*	N/A	N/A	4	5
Gaithersburg	0	0	2	0
Greenbelt	0	0	2	13
Laurel	0	0	1	0
Rockville	0	0	4	65
Other:				
WSSC	0	0	7	94
TOTALS	65	48,450	1,384	2,030

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**Montgomery County reported information for the Calendar Year 2024

Inspections and Enforcement in the Critical Area

- 11 jurisdictions indicated that they have Critical Area within their boundary.
- A total of 5,922 sediment control inspections were performed in the Critical Area.
- A total of 580 sediment control violation notices were issued.
- A total of 181 building and grading violation notices were issued.
- A total of 364 stop work orders were issued.
- The sum of \$35,650 was collected in fines or securities.
- There were 27 court cases.
- 128 complaints were received.
- The jurisdictions provided assistance to correct violations in 263 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	2,950	503	134	347	33	28,050
Baltimore City	Yes	333	19	19	1	1	100
Baltimore*	Yes	634	26	7	10	2	5,500
Calvert	Yes	808	7	7	0	0	0
Carroll	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Charles	Yes	30	1	1	1	1	525
Frederick	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Harford	Yes	3	2	1	1	0	0
Howard	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kent	Yes	471	0	4	0	0	0
Montgomery**	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Prince George's	Yes	144	0	-	-	-	-
Worcester	Yes	265	4	4	4	0	0
Municipalities:							
Aberdeen	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annapolis	Yes	263	13	4	0	4	2,000

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*	Yes	10	0	0	0	0	0
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	5,932	580	181	364	41	36,175

*Baltimore County and the City of Bowie reported information for the Calendar Year 2023

**Montgomery County reported information for the Calendar Year 2024

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	27	28050	96	250
Baltimore City	0	0	0	0
Baltimore*	0	0	4	0
Calvert	0	0	0	0
Carroll	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Charles	0	0	7	0
Frederick	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Harford	0	0	3	0
Howard	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kent	0	0	3	8
Montgomery**	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Prince George's	-	-	-	-
Worcester	0	0	15	0

Jurisdiction	Court Cases		Sediment Control Complaints	Compliance Assistance Provided to Correct Violations
	Number	Awarded (\$)		
Municipalities:				
Aberdeen	0	0	0	0
Annapolis	0	0	0	0
Bel Air	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bowie*	0	0	0	0
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	27	28,050	128	263

*Baltimore County and the City of Bowie reported information for the Calendar Year 2023

**Montgomery County reported information for the Calendar Year 2024

Inspections and Enforcement in Sensitive Areas

- 20 jurisdictions indicated that they have Sensitive Areas within their boundary.
- A total of 4,388 sediment control inspections were performed in Sensitive Areas.
- A total of 404 sediment control violation notices were issued.
- A total of 207 building and grading violation notices were issued.
- A total of 98 stop work orders were issued.
- The sum of \$1,825,424 was collected in fines or securities.
- There were 6 court cases.
- 166 complaints were received.
- The jurisdictions provided assistance to correct violations in 412 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	1,257	221	117	80	3	3,000
Baltimore City	Yes	211	15	15	1	1	100
Baltimore*	Yes	“See Critical Area Data”	-	-	-	-	-
Calvert	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Carroll	Yes	350	56	4	4	0	0
Charles	Yes	307	5	0	2	2	1,050
Frederick	Yes	282	47	47	2	0	0
Harford	Yes	25	5	1	3	1	10,000
Howard	Yes	871	8	8	0	0	0
Kent	Yes	11	0	0	0	0	0
Montgomery**	Yes	350	11	6	0	3	3,000
Prince George’s	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worcester	Yes	241	4	4	1	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	40	8	0	0	0	0
Annapolis	Yes	192	5	5	0	0	0
Bel Air	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bowie*	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gaithersburg	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenbelt	Yes	41	9	0	5	3	2,250
Laurel	Yes	40	0	0	0	0	0
Rockville	Yes	32	0	0	0	0	0
Other:							
WSSC	Yes	138	10	N/A	0	2	500
TOTALS	20	4,388	404	207	98	15	19,900

*Baltimore County and the City of Bowie reported information for the Calendar Year 2023

**Montgomery County reported information for the Calendar Year 2024

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	3	3000	105	317
Baltimore City	0	0	0	0
Baltimore*	-	-	-	-
Calvert	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Carroll	0	0	12	1
Charles	0	0	12	0
Frederick	0	0	1	1
Harford	0	0	20	0
Howard	0	0	4	46
Kent	0	0	1	2
Montgomery**	3	2,000	3	22
Prince George's	-	-	-	-
Worcester	0	0	0	0
Municipalities:				
Aberdeen	0	0	1	0
Annapolis	0	0	0	0
Bel Air	0	0	0	0
Bowie*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gaithersburg	0	0	0	0
Greenbelt	0	0	2	13
Laurel	0	0	1	0
Rockville	0	0	0	0
Other:				
WSSC	0	0	4	10
TOTALS	6	5,000	166	412

*Baltimore County and the City of Bowie reported information for the Calendar Year 2023

**Montgomery County reported information for the Calendar Year 2024

IV. Appendices

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

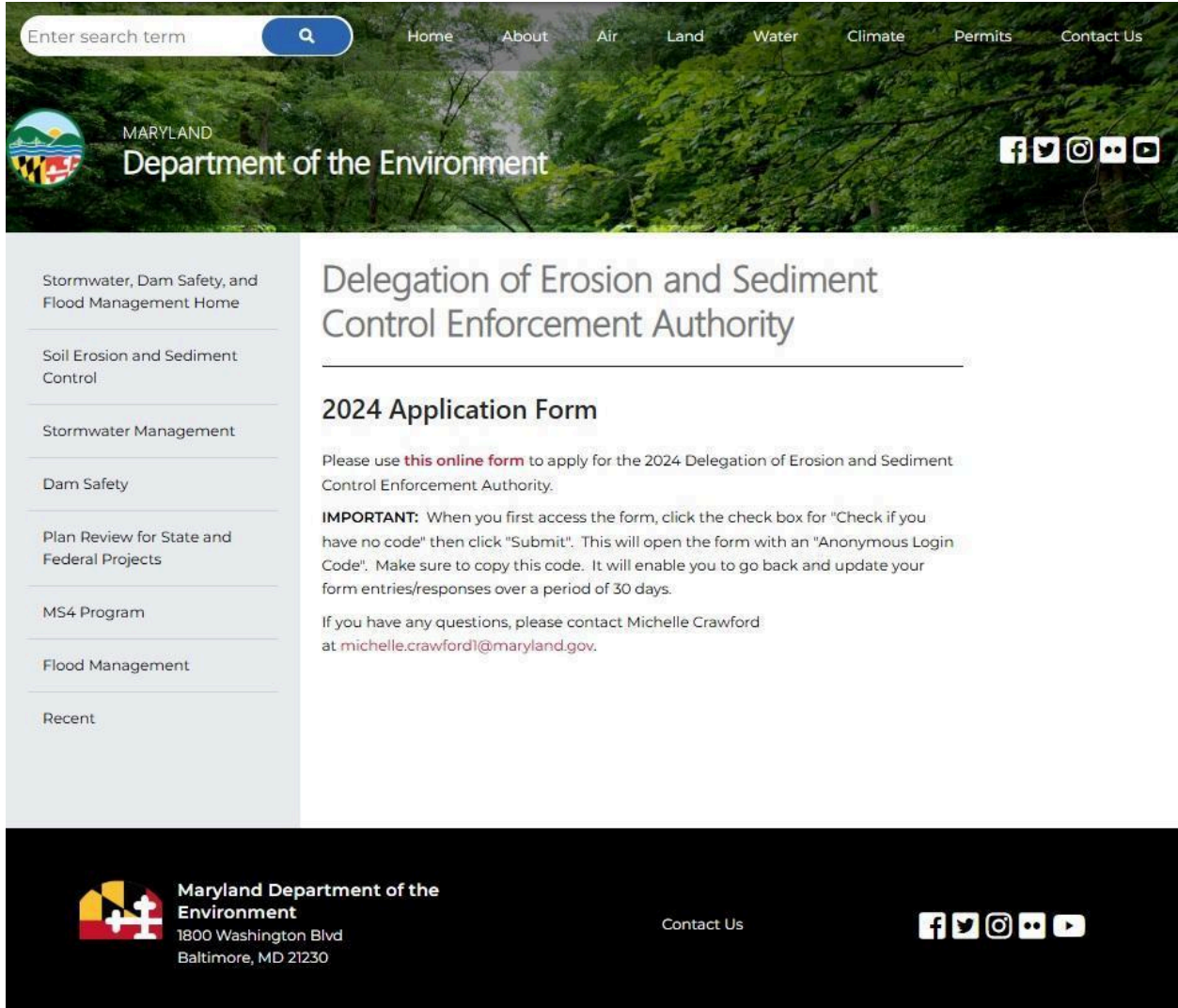
§4-802.

- (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:



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

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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 - 2024

Anonymous Login Code: 810L6035275 [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 2025. 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*