

**STATE COAL COMBUSTION BY-PRODUCTS MANAGEMENT
FUND
FISCAL YEAR 2025 STATUS**

Maryland Department of the Environment

December 2025



Status of the State Coal Combustion By-Products Management Fund

Fiscal Year 2025

Maryland Department of the Environment
Submitted December 30, 2025
Maryland General Assembly
Reporting Period Fiscal Year 2025



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND, AND SCOPE	2
STATUS OF THE FUND	2
USES OF THE FUND	3
CONCLUSION	4
TABLE I: CCB TONNAGES AND INVOICES CALENDAR YEAR 2024	5
TABLE II: FINANCIAL STATEMENT	6

**Report to the Legislature:
Status of the State Coal Combustion By-Products Management Fund**

INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND, AND SCOPE

This annual report is submitted to the General Assembly of Maryland to satisfy §9-285 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, which requires that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) inform the legislature about the status of the State Coal Combustion By-Products (CCBs) Management Fund (“the Fund”). §9-285 requires MDE to provide information on:

- (1) The status of the Fund;
- (2) Revenues of and expenditures from the Fund;
- (3) The efficiency of the CCBs regulatory program;
- (4) Compliance rates within the regulatory program; and
- (5) Based on the factors listed in items (1) through (4) above, the necessity to review and adjust the fee in accordance with §9-283(g).

The purpose of the Fund is to provide MDE with the resources to oversee the disposal, beneficial use, and management of CCBs in the State of Maryland. These materials are the residuals created when coal is burned for energy. Coal consists of a large percentage of organic carbon, with a variable percentage of other naturally-occurring minerals that may contain a wide range of elements including metals.

A significant amount of volume reduction takes place when coal is burned, as a large percentage of the organic carbon in the coal is converted into carbon dioxide. The carbon dioxide escapes as a gas, but most of the chemicals that make up the other minerals remain as solids and often oxides form when the coal is burned. The removal of the carbonaceous material causes the percentage, or concentration, of the nonvolatile elements that were present to be increased in the residual ash. So, although there is no more of a given element in the ash than there was in the original coal, it is now mixed with a much smaller volume of other chemicals, producing a higher concentration in the ash than there was in the original coal.

Therefore, although largely derived from natural earth materials including coal and limestone, CCBs can contain potentially harmful amounts of some heavy metals, such as mercury, lead, chromium, cadmium, selenium, molybdenum, and boron, among others. Although not acutely toxic or immediately hazardous, the concentrations of these chemicals can be harmful to plant and aquatic life and can render the air, surface water, and groundwater unhealthy for prolonged human exposure when not handled properly.

Statutory revisions to §9-283, effective October 1, 2025, established the Coal Combustion By-Products Coordinating Committee tasked with reporting to the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment and the House Environment and Transportation Committee. This revision also introduced a new fee structure for stored CCBs. MDE is responsible for providing the additional reporting to the Coordinating Committee and implementing the new fee structure effectively. These critical responsibilities underscore the evolving demands on MDE’s resources to ensure comprehensive oversight and management.

STATUS OF THE FUND

In accordance with the CCB law, each year MDE calculates a generator fee to charge the major CCB generators. This fee supports the State's CCB regulatory activities. This fee is based on the following factors:

- The requirements of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.04.10.09;
- The amount of CCBs generated by each major generator, and the fate of those CCBs;
- The funding required to operate MDE's CCB activities for a fiscal year; and
- The amount of money remaining in the Fund at the end of the previous fiscal year.

Revenues to the Fund. Under COMAR 26.04.10.09, CCB generators were required to submit a report detailing their CCB generation during CY23. These reports were due in March 2024. Based on the information contained in the reports, MDE developed fees for each site generating CCBs. In accordance with the regulation, MDE calculated an adjusted base fee of \$80.51572361 per ton of CCBs disposed in Maryland. Invoice was mailed to one generator who met the requirements, and \$1,221,181.98 was collected to support the program. A balance of \$500,625.02 was remaining in the Fund at the end of FY24, which was applied to program operations in FY25.

Expenditures from the Fund. A total of \$1,175,060.50 was expended from the Fund in FY25 in support of \$1,721,807.00 in program costs. The expenditures were largely for salaries for technical staff, with the remainder used to provide supplies needed to operate the program. A balance of \$546,746.50 was remaining in the Fund at the end of FY25.

Projected Costs for FY26. The anticipated costs to operate the program for FY26 are \$1,914,388.00, an approximately 10% increase over FY25 program costs. This amount has been appropriated for in the FY26 budget. A balance of \$546,746.50 was remaining in the Fund at the end of FY25, which is required to be subtracted from the total amount billed for FY26 activities. This leaves \$1,367,641.50 as the total amount to be invoiced for CY24 CCBs generation, in order to cover FY26 costs.

Adjustments to the Base Fee. COMAR 26.04.10.09 provides that the base billing fee (subject to adjustment) is \$1.15 per ton of CCBs generated. The adjustment factors are 1.0 per ton for CCBs disposed of or used for noncoal mine reclamation in Maryland, and 0.5 per ton for CCBs transported outside the state. No fee is charged to generators for CCBs that are beneficially used, used for coal mine reclamation in Maryland, or to generators that generated less than 10,000 tons of CCBs per year. After removing tonnages exempt from the fee and applying the adjustment factors to the remaining tonnages, there were 74,850 billable tons of CCBs disposed of in state or transported outside the state. Further, MDE can adjust the base rate to accommodate anticipated expenditures. Based on the anticipated program needs and the amount of CCBs managed, MDE has calculated the base fee for this billing period (FY26) as \$18.27176353 per billable ton. MDE developed a fee for the site generating CCBs, which is outlined in Table I. This fee is anticipated to generate \$1,367,642 (rounded), which would leave no surplus to be carried over if all appropriated funds are expended. Any surplus or unexpended funds will be credited to FY27's invoices.

If any generator questions MDE's assessments and MDE agrees with any of the claimed exemptions (e.g., for material that was really beneficially used, or used in coal mine reclamation, which are exempted from the fee by statute), the base fee may be subject to reevaluation.

USES OF THE FUND

With the support provided by the Fund, MDE employs geologists, engineers, inspectors, and an Assistant Attorney General to focus on the management of CCBs in Maryland. The following is a description of the activities of MDE in FY25 that were supported by the Fund.

Review of Engineering Plans:

- Reviewed Permit Modification Application for the Fort Armistead Road – Lot 15 Industrial Landfill (located in Baltimore City).

Review of Operational Plans:

- Reviewed revised operations and maintenance manuals for the Westland Ash Management Facility (located in Montgomery County) and Brandywine Ash Management Facility (located in Prince George’s County); and
- Reviewed modification of the stabilization material used for moisture conditioning of the wastewater solids prior to transport and disposal at the Fort Armistead Road – Lot 15 Industrial Landfill.

Review of Monitoring Data:

- Performed hydrogeological evaluation of groundwater and surface water data collected as part of the Nature and Extent of Contamination Studies being conducted at the Brandywine and Westland CCB landfills; and
- Reviewed environmental monitoring data reports for the Fort Armistead Road – Lot 15 Industrial Landfill, Westland, Brandywine and Faulkner CCB landfills.
- Reviewed PQL variance request for the Fort Armistead Road – Lot 15 Industrial Landfill.

Compliance Activities:

- Performed inspections of CCB facilities, including inspections at the generating facilities, disposal sites, and mine reclamation sites; and
- Inspected the Westland Ash Management Facility; and
- Reviewed and approved Corrective Measures Plan for Brandywine and Westland Ash Management Facilities.

Revising Maryland Regulations Governing CCBs:

- MDE hosted four workshop meetings in 2016 with stakeholders to discuss changes to Maryland’s Coal Combustion Byproducts (CCBs) regulations under COMAR 26.04.10. MDE is currently revising these regulations to be consistent with the federal “Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System: Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities” rule. This federal rule became effective on October 19, 2015, and was subsequently revised in 2018 and 2025, with additional proposed changes effective May 8, 2024. The revised CCB regulations will be proposed in accordance with Senate Bill 425 with the goal of adopting the Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) rule by October 1, 2026; and
- MDE is revising the draft CCB beneficial use regulations. A draft is expected to be ready for review by a stakeholder workgroup after promulgation of the revisions to the existing CCB regulations; and

- MDE developed draft regulations to the CCB Management Fund COMAR 26.04.10.09, pursuant to revisions to MD Environment Code § 9-283 enacted in May 2025. The draft regulations include CCB storage fees as a source of funding, in addition to the existing generator fee. MDE expects the regulations to be proposed by December 2025.

CONCLUSION

The industry has increased its efforts to recycle CCB materials through mine reclamation and other means, and this trend is anticipated to continue. The further development of beneficial use regulations will provide industry with additional acceptable ways of utilizing these materials, instead of disposing them. The industry has already developed several successful ways to recycle these materials in building materials such as gypsum board and concrete, so these additional efforts will largely be supplementary.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued federal regulations governing CCBs that became effective on October 19, 2015, and in several subsequent years. In a few areas, these regulations are more stringent than Maryland's, so MDE convened a workgroup to discuss the manner in which COMAR 26.04.10 can be amended to match the federal rule. This will allow generators and disposers of CCBs in Maryland to follow one set of rules in managing these materials. The workgroup met with a substantial degree of consensus. These regulatory changes are in development. They were originally anticipated to be proposed in the third quarter of CY20, but subsequent changes to the federal regulations most recently in May 2025 have required re-writes of the draft regulations that are still ongoing.

TABLE I: CCB TONNAGES AND INVOICES CALENDAR YEAR 2024

Generators < 10,000 tons total generation are exempt

Name	Total Generation	In State Disposal	Out of State Disposal	Out of State Beneficial Use	Billable Tons	Adjusted Per Ton Fee	Invoice Amount:
AES Warrior Run	90,986	0	0	0	0		
Raven Power - Brandon Shores	232,118	22,803	0	104,093	74,850	\$18.27176353	\$1,367,641.50
Raven Power - H.A. Wagner	0	88	0	0	0		
Holcim (US) Inc.	*	0	0	0	0		
Heidelberg Materials US Cement LLC	59,049	0	0	0	0		
Mettiki Coal, LLC	1,085	0	0	0	0		
TOTAL:	383,238	22,891	0	104,093	74,850		\$1,367,641.50

Green	All generated CCBs reused beneficially
Red	Invoiced amount
Blue	Below 10,000 tons per year and exempt

Amt. Appropriated:
\$1,914,388.00
Minus carryover:
\$546,746.50
Amount to be billed:
\$1,367,641.50

TABLE II: FINANCIAL STATEMENT

**STATE COAL COMBUSTION BY-PRODUCTS
MANAGEMENT FUND
Financial Statement
July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025**

Beginning Fund Balance \$500,625.02

Revenue \$1,221,181.98

FY25 Expenditures	
Salaries	\$932,000.18
Communications	\$360.09
Travel & Training	\$0
Vehicles	\$47,428.36
Contractual Services	\$0
Supplies	\$0
Equipment (Computers)	\$0
Other	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$979,788.63
Indirect Costs	\$195,271.87
Balance in Fund 6/30/2025	\$546,746.50