MARYLAND'S ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS DISTRICT PROGRAM

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AIR QUALITY PERMITS PROGRAM

WHAT IS AN EBD?

- An EBD can be a single town, several communities, or a region (of a county, for instance). Working with one or more state agencies (as well as local agencies), the district identifies problems that need to be addressed including local health issues, lack of economic development, existence of brownfield sites or decaying infrastructure.
- The lead state agency would work with other agencies to identify programs that could help solve the district's problems.

EBD CRITERIA

- Demonstrate environmental justice and/or disadvantage concerns
- Areas where local government, legislators, and communities will support an EBD initiative
- Located within state priority funding area
- Located within an empowerment zone, enterprise zone, etc.
- Demonstrate a need and/or possess the potential for economic development opportunities

EBD Criteria Cont'd

- Threatened by releases or discharges of oil or other known contaminants
- Subject to failing water, wastewater, and sewer infrastructure systems

"This is a way for government to be proactive in helping communities identify problems and find solutions rather than leaving it to citizens to figure out who to call. It is also a way to make sure that government sets its priorities wisely and uses its resources efficiently."

Kendl Philbrick

MDE Secretary

November 6, 2003

EBD- Economic Benefits

- Provide opportunities for economic development, small business growth, and mitigation projects with business and community support.
- Reduced delays and costs associated with opposition and litigation to targeted projects
- Better image and relationship with local communities

EBD- Government and Environmental Benefits

- Proactive collaboration among state, business, local government, and communities
- Identification of communities that are most in need
- Proactive environmental protection and significant role in stimulating local communities

EBD- Quality of Life and Community Benefits

- Better opportunities for environmental health research and mitigation
- Communities that are at risk and in most need are identified and targeted, stabilized and revitalized.
- Opportunities for input into decision-making

How Were EBDs Chosen?

- Need to meet criteria
- **And**
- Must be interest and support from elected officials and community groups

Current EBD Locations

- East Baltimore EBD
- Baltimore City/County (Zip codes 21205, 21231, and 21224)
- Industrial area in southern/eastern Baltimore City extending into Baltimore County with several large manufacturing facilities

East Baltimore

- Low income area
- Support from elected officials
- Johns Hopkins
- Annie Casey Foundation (additional funding source)
- Community group

Current EBD Locations

- Prince George's County EBD (Zip codes 20747, 20743, 20774, 20772)
- Western side of Prince George's County bordering on Washington D.C.
- Few large manufacturing facilities

Prince George's County

- Economically diverse area
- Elected officials at State and County levels very supportive
- School officials (principals of Middle School and elementary school in EBD)
- Active community involvement (better than East Baltimore)

ACTIVITIES
MOBILE SOURCES

- Conduct several Diesel Engine Retrofit Technology Workshops for government and private fleets. Similar to workshops being conducted for school bus fleets
- Establish a Maryland Diesel Difference Conference- diesel stakeholder group of diverse partners that would promote, review and publicly recognize voluntary projects and strategies such as increasing availability of ultra-low sulfur fuel, alternatives fuels etc.

- Work with Public Works Departments to identify vehicle types in fleet and determine best emission reduction technology option for each vehicle
- Cab companies (CNG taxis)
- Locomotives (idle reduction options)
- “Green” State contract requirements
- State tax incentives
- Enhanced Diesel Vehicle Emissions Control Program
- Regular smoke opacity tests

- Commuter Choice program
- Flexcar and Zipcar program
- School bus idling guidelines
- Clean fuel for transit buses in East Baltimore- $100,000 grant from EPA with $36,000 State match to provide cost differential on purchase of 1.7 million gallons of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel that serves East Baltimore communities.

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS (SEPs)

- $12,000 for University of MD “Breathmobile”- small mobile, home-sized vehicle that carries medical staff who test and treat asthmatic school age children
- $40,000 to reduce emissions from public school boilers in Baltimore area
- VEPCO settlement- Maryland received $600,000 for use in retrofitting school buses in PG and two other counties. PG County is scheduled to receive $202,500 for use in retrofitting 81 school buses with diesel oxidation catalysts.

INSPECTION/COMPLIANCE EFFORTS

- Target small sources in EBDs for compliance inspections
- Survey EBDs and register sources as needed
- Conduct limited fuel sampling initiative for sulfur content especially in school boilers

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE

- Autobody Shops- mail training package and general permit application to all body shops in area
- Dry Cleaners- mail dry cleaner calendar and general permit application
- Gasoline Stations- training workshops on regulatory requirements and proper equipment maintenance

CHILDREN'S HEALTH CAMPAIGN

- Air taking lead
- Goal is to build on work already being done including Mobile (diesel retrofits), Compliance (SEPs), and education efforts (Planning and Education and Outreach unit)
- Eventually reach into other MDE administrations

ISSUES

- Research vs. mitigation
- Who coordinates? MDE has EBD Coordinator/Environmental Justice position
- Multi-media- not just air issue

FUTURE

- Identify one or two new EBDs per year
- Work to obtain additional resources to support EBDs
- Evaluate EBD performance