

U00A
Department of the Environment

Budget Amendments

COORDINATING OFFICES

U00A10.01 Coordinating Offices

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

Further provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation made for the purpose of general administrative expenses may not be expended until the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) submits a report to the budget committees on the State's authorized and actual project funding for the Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) upgrade of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (Blue Plains). The report shall include the following concerning the ENR construction component of the Blue Plains ENR upgrade project:

- (1) the amount of capital construction grant funds appropriated by the Maryland General Assembly and approved by MDE for WSSC Water;
- (2) the amount of additional funding or spending approvals that MDE obtained from the Maryland Board of Public Works;
- (3) the amount WSSC Water has expended;
- (4) the amount WSSC Water has received in reimbursements from MDE;
- (5) a description of MDE's efforts to meet with WSSC Water's staff for the purpose of reviewing all project costs;
- (6) a list of any project costs MDE has determined are ineligible for reimbursement, the reasons for that determination, and WSSC Water's responses to MDE's determinations; and;
- (7) the amount of Bay Restoration Fund revenue collected from WSSC rate payers from fiscal 2005 to 2023 per data obtained from the Comptroller's Office.

The report shall be submitted by October 1, 2024, and the budget committees shall have 45 days from the date of the receipt of the report to review and comment. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall revert to the General Fund if the report is not submitted to the budget committees.

Explanation: The Blue Plains ENR upgrade project was large and complicated with substantial benefits for Chesapeake Bay restoration. The State made a large commitment to its successful completion. The General Assembly requests a status of the State’s authorization of funding for the project and the amount WSSC Water was reimbursed. Therefore, this budget bill language restricts funding pending the submission of a report on the State’s authorized and actual funding of the Blue Plains ENR upgrade project and, for context, the contribution of WSSC rate payers to the Bay Restoration Fund supporting the project.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Blue Plains ENR upgrade project funding report	MDE	October 1, 2024