



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary

March 26, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Senate Bill (SB) 253 - Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit - Research Facilities - Chemical Warfare Material Requirements - Letter of Information

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this Letter of Information for Senate Bill (SB) 253 - Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit - Research Facilities - Chemical Warfare Material Requirements.

Chemical weapons neutralization and destruction require a significant amount of planning, adequate training, personal protective equipment, and medical/occupational health surveillance as well as contingency planning for possible unusual conditions or events. The military and its contractors have experience and expertise in this area.

This bill as amended allows the Department of the Environment to issue research, development, and demonstration permits for the incineration of chemical warfare materials. These permits are limited in duration and will include requirements the Department of the Environment considers necessary to protect human health, including monitoring, reporting, and biennial assessment of incineration activities on local ecosystems, public health, and air quality. The Department of the Environment may also order immediate termination of all incineration operations if necessary to protect human health.

The Department encourages the utilization of state and local emergency response personnel expertise for contingency planning at these facilities to plan for possible unusual conditions or events. Contingency planning, including timely notification procedures, should be trained and exercised with those who may respond to these facilities during an emergency to ensure the health and safety of responders as well as the public.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs, at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Ryan B. Moran, DrPH, MHSA
Acting Secretary