



About MES

- A Successful and Responsible Manager of Environmental Projects
- No Regulatory Authority
- Self-Supporting Non-Profit
- Governmental and Private Sector Clients
- Over 800 Employees Throughout the State
- Projects Ranging from \$500 to \$13 Million



The Maryland Environmental Service is an independent State agency that was created in 1970 by the Governor and legislature. The agency's mission is to provide operational and technical services to protect and enhance the environment for the benefit of the people of Maryland.



The agency does not have regulatory authority and is not funded through direct appropriations from the State. It is a self-supporting, not-for-profit public corporation that works with both governmental and private sector clients to find innovative solutions to some of the most complex environmental challenges.

The unique combination of public purpose and private resources allows the agency to combine the public sector's commitment to environmental protection with the private sector's efficiencies, flexibility, and responsiveness.

Over 800 Service employees are involved in projects that range in cost from \$500 to \$13 million.

The agency offers services to clients at competitive rates and works on projects related to water and wastewater treatment, solid waste management, alternative energy planning, development and operations, organic products marketing, recycling and marketing of recovered materials, dredged material management and recycling, hazardous materials cleanup and engineering, monitoring, and inspection services.

This wealth of expertise helps reinforce a strong commitment to safe and ethical work practices, cost containment, improving the communities in which we work, and meeting the unique needs of our many customers.

The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) recommends that MES comment on what types of projects it anticipates using the construction manager at-risk procurement model, what efficiencies and tradeoffs are anticipated as a result of using this model, and whether the model can fully compensate for the lack of competition or improve MES's cost estimating.

- **MES Response #1:** The Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) model will allow for increased efficiency in the procurement process. MES anticipates using the CMAR method on projects that are particularly time-sensitive, such as those with compliance dates that must be met in a short period of time and/or cannot be achieved using the traditional design-bid-build process.
- **MES Response #2:** CMAR will provide greater transparency. A traditional bid is usually a lump sum price and does not allow an Owner to see what the contractor is actually paying for equipment and services or what items may have a significant mark-up. Using CMAR, once the guaranteed maximum price is agreed upon, the construction manager begins bidding and awarding packages of construction - such as site work, piping, concrete, pumps, etc. The Owner can participate in the review of these packages and will see the exact amount bid for each.
- **MES Response #3:** CMAR is a competitive procurement. MES first contracts with an A/E from the MES A/E Short List, which is competitively procured. When the design is at least 30% complete, MES will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP process includes criteria for technical ability and pre-construction service pricing. As the design is completed, the construction manager will provide a guaranteed maximum price for the project.

MES is one of several state agencies experiencing challenges with cost estimates. Construction prices have recently been tracking at a higher rate of increase in regional markets, which is expected to continue. This procurement method will help us continue to stay within our funding allocation on projects. As time passes, MES will gain a better understanding of contractor pricing, which will help us when developing future estimates.



Value-Quality-Results