

■ *Instituto Mexicano de Tecnología del Agua (IMTA)*, Mexican Institute of Water Technology

■ *Comisión Nacional del Agua (CNA)*, National Water Commission

These agencies have autonomous decision-making authority, but are dependent on *SEMARNAP* for funding.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ECOLOGY

The *Instituto Nacional de Ecología (INECO)*, National Institute of Ecology, is based in Mexico City with a staff of 500. It has three principal functions: formulating new standards and regulations, assessing environmental impact and risk, and granting permits for industrial plants. The *INECO* is also helping to increase environmental expertise within state governments.

Standards and regulations must follow the framework established by the *Ley de Normas y Metrología*, Law of Standards and Measurements. Although the government planned to have some 200 environmental standards finalized by the end of 1994, less than 60 were actually published. Some of the work for standards development was contracted to Canadian firms, with funding provided under the Government of Canada's Green Plan.

Environmental Impact Assessment and Risk Assessment regulations require that new industrial operations in specified industries must submit an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) prior to construction. A total of 396 EIAs were submitted in 1992. The *INECO* maintains a register of companies that are allowed to do EIAs.

Permits for air emissions, water discharges and hazardous waste handling are issued by the *INECO* for a range of specified industries. Federal public works projects, public highways, federal tourism projects and all industries in the Mexico-U.S. border area also require permits.

FEDERAL OFFICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The *Procuraduría Federal para la Protección del Ambiente (PROFEPA)*, Federal Office for Environmental Protection, is Mexico's environmental enforcement agency. *PROFEPA's* mandate is to monitor compliance with air, waste and noise legislation and standards. It conducts investigations, inspections and environmental audits. Inspectors can impose sanctions ranging from fines or plant closures to performance bonds.