

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study aims to give the Canadian environment industry an overview of the American industrial wastewater management market. More specifically, it provides up-to-date information on U.S. environmental legislation and regulations on industrial wastewater, and it identifies the main segments of industry affected as well as technological trends. Market potential and growth projections are presented, as are the principal potential private-sector partners.

LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS ON INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER (DOCUMENT 1)

The lynchpin of U.S. legislation affecting industrial wastewater is the Clean Water Act (CWA). Other acts, notably the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act, may also have the effect of imposing requirements on industrial wastewater.

These acts are administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which is also responsible for implementing environment-related national programs, regulations and policies. The individual American states play a role through laws and regulations which go beyond the national requirements in order to solve specific local problems. In addition, authority to administer some of the federal environmental programs has been delegated to the states.

The CWA seeks to re-establish and maintain the physical, chemical and biological integrity of U.S. inland surface waters. It has been amended on several occasions and is subject to re-authorization by the new administration in 1993. Originally focussed on the construction of treatment plants, the Act has expanded to deal with toxic pollutant monitoring, protection and restoration of lakes and estuaries, drainage of farmland, oil spills, stormwaters and nonpoint source pollution in general.

Amendments planned for 1993 will deal with the need to control toxic pollutants at source rather than treat them. This approach will necessitate innovative techniques which will often be specific to a particular industrial process.