

1.1 GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

1.1.1 ACCESS TO LEGISLATION

To stay on top of the American environmental market, Canadian firms need to be familiar with the main legislation and regulations affecting their particular sphere of expertise.

This part of the study provides a general overview of the U.S. legislative and regulatory framework in environmental matters. Any technologies, services, equipment or products which Canadian firms bring onto the U.S. environmental market must comply with the legislation and regulations governing it.

The market is a huge one, estimated to be worth over \$130 billion (US) in 1993, with \$80 billion of this representing the private sector alone. (See Appendix 1.1: U.S. Environmental Industry -- Projected Market Growth).

1.1.2 FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

On 2 December 1970 President Richard Nixon signed an order stipulating that henceforth all environmental regulatory activities would come under a single new government agency to be known as the Environmental Protection Agency, commonly referred to by its acronym EPA.² This brought together the various activities, decisions and areas of concern previously dispersed among several government departments (Health, Education, Interior, Agriculture, etc).

Most U.S. environmental legislation and regulations were developed after 1970, as shown in the following summary history:

² A list of acronyms and their meanings appears in the GLOSSARY at the end of the study.