
Wastewater

The treatment of wastewater, on the municipal side is of lesser interest to most Canadian firms. In total, there are 15 thousand municipal sewage treatment facilities in the United States, with a further five thousand to be built over the next 20 years. These are generally handled by local, well-established engineering firms.

The industrial wastewater market encompasses 300 thousand manufacturing plants, of which an estimated 30 percent are felt to be of sufficient size to interest engineering firms and other environmental suppliers. It is likely that private industries will be increasingly called upon to treat their own wastewater before it goes into publicly-owned treatment works.

There will be substantial sums spent on sewer overflow systems, waste treatment technologies, waste minimization and pollution prevention technologies during the next decade. This may be of interest to Canadian firms with appropriate expertise.

Water

The annual U.S. market for water utilities is around \$12 billion with annual growth of 4 percent. This market encompasses municipal water treatment utilities, large private water companies and small private water companies. The large private firms generally belong to one association (National Association of Water Companies) and have funds to finance equipment purchases, waterworks improvements, technology development, and the like.

3.3 Solid Waste Management

The Solid Waste Management segment accounts for \$33 billion annually and addresses such problem areas as land use and abuse, industrial recycling, and solid waste combustion. It can be divided into two segments, namely waste collection and transportation (two-thirds of the market) and landfill operations.

The number of solid waste disposal sites in the U.S. is declining rapidly, from 20 thousand in the mid-1970s to a projected figure of 1800 in the Year 2010. As existing landfills become filled and as new sites have increased difficulty securing community approval, the need for waste reduction technologies is becoming critically important. Landfill is expected to decline from handling 76 percent of municipal solid waste in 1988 to 46 percent in 2000. (See Table 2)