

Toxic pollutants may be organic or inorganic. They are hazardous to aquatic animal and plant life in very low concentrations. The list of 126 priority toxic pollutants appears in Appendix 2.3. Included are dioxins, PCBs, solvents and heavy metals. Only pollutants specific to a given segment of industry are included in the effluent guidelines.

2.2 TYPES OF TECHNOLOGY

It is not possible in a general overview to give a complete review of all the technologies applicable to each segment of industry. Still, certain technological trends are apparent and should be pointed out:

2.2.1 REDUCTION AT SOURCE⁶

This includes any process designed to reduce or eliminate pollutant formation in the first place, as opposed to recycling or recovery.

Information obtained from the EPA, together with reports from the Senate and House subcommittee hearings in connection with re-authorization of the CWA, testify to the importance accorded by U.S. legislative and regulatory bodies to reduction at source, as opposed to maintaining the traditional approach of pretreatment (before the pollutants enter the treatment plant).

⁶ Reduction at source includes any modification to equipment, technologies, processes or operational procedures; the reformulation or design of a product; the substitution of raw materials, and improvements in the maintenance of facilities, training of personnel and inventory control.