

view of integrating into legislation the principle of pollution prevention for toxic chemical management.

In September 1994 the Minister of the Environment released a proposed policy, *Towards a Toxic Substances Management Policy for Canada*. The policy is based on the principles of sustainable development and pollution prevention with emphasis on the need for preventive and precautionary approaches to managing toxic substances. Under the umbrella of the new policy, the Chlorine Action Plan was announced in October 1994; it focuses on the virtual elimination of harmful chlorinated substances.

In addition, a number of voluntary initiatives continue to support the legislative protocols. Cradle-to-grave codes of practice developed by the Canadian Chemical Producers Association (CCPA), the National Emission Reduction Master Plan of CCPA, and the Accelerated Reduction/Elimination of Toxics (ARET) resulted in 124 action plans and reduction commitments in 1994 to reduce or eliminate emissions of some 100 substances. More are in preparation and a summary of commitments will be published in 1995.

Radioactive Wastes

In 1994, the federal government issued regulations that require uranium mining companies to provide financial assurances demonstrating that funds will be available for the eventual clean-up of their sites. This initiative will help to ensure the long-term protection of the environment around uranium mines.

Hazardous Wastes

The industry-led Hazardous Waste Minimization Committee has developed action plans to meet the goal of 50 percent reduction in hazardous wastes destined for disposal by 2000. A work plan has been developed by wholesalers, manufacturers, and environmental groups that targets specific household wastes, such as used lubrication oils, batteries, paints, pesticides, and herbicides, for post-consumer collection and subsequent recycling and re-use.

Following the Second Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, Canada initiated a study to improve the mechanisms and procedures used to detect and prevent illegal traffic in hazardous waste.

Canada is developing a new computer system to support its efforts to track and control international movements of hazardous wastes. This should be operational by 1996. The new system will provide enhanced validation and cross-checking of data. It will be available on-line to enforcement officials across the country.

Under the National Contaminated Sites Remediation Program, governments have initiated or completed remediation at 40 high-risk contaminated sites with no identifiable owner. Thirteen projects designed to demonstrate remediation technologies were undertaken in 1994 alone.