

POTWs and companies discharging their effluents into what the EPA calls toxic hot spots will have to develop control strategies on a priority basis. Hot spots are areas where the quality of water, sediments and aquatic life is particularly affected by toxic substances.

#### **1.2.7. REGULATIONS UNDER THE SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT (SDWA)**

Even though the regulations under the SDWA do not pertain to industrial wastewater, treatment methods and technologies for drinking water may be similar. These regulations are therefore indirectly relevant to our study.

The SDWA was amended in June 1986 to strengthen the regulations affecting both surface waters and groundwater.

Under the Act, the EPA sets objectives and concentration limits for contaminants in drinking water in order to protect human health. The Agency issues primary and secondary regulations in this area.

The National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR) specify the maximum allowable contaminant concentrations. A Drinking Water Priority List (DWPL) setting out the priority contaminants has been published and is revised every three years. The 1991 revision includes 77 contaminants and groups of contaminants, 25 of which will soon come under regulations.

A list of contaminants regulated so far, maximum allowable concentrations, and the Best Available Technology identified by the EPA is given in Appendix 1.2 (USEPA Drinking Water Standards and BAT for Regulated Contaminants).