

industry has initiated the National Emission Reduction Master Plan involving a voluntary approach to collecting release information. The Major Industrial Accidents Council of Canada is developing guidance and tools to improve chemical emergency prevention, preparedness and response.

The Accelerated Reduction-Elimination of Toxics Program involves industry and governments through voluntary actions designed to achieve accelerated reduction of emissions, and the elimination or phase-out of bioaccumulative, persistent toxic substances. That kind of partnership has been extended to include other major groups which participated in a federal task force to recommend a pollution prevention legislative framework. The final report of the task force was released in September 1993.

Hazardous Wastes

Governments in Canada have agreed to reduce the amount of hazardous waste destined for final disposal to 50 percent of its 1990 level by 2000. Achievement of that target is based on reduction, reuse and recycling, with much of that responsibility in the hands of provincial and territorial governments and the private sector.

(a) Reducing Waste and Building Treatment Capacity

At the centre of voluntary efforts to develop and implement the necessary action plans is the Hazardous Waste Minimization Committee. It was established by industry and involves governments, environmental groups and labour.

In 1993, the CCME re-established its Hazardous Waste Task Force to promote the uniform management of hazardous wastes across Canada. As part of its hazardous waste plan, the CCME is preparing a comprehensive national inventory of hazardous waste to measure progress of waste reduction targets and to catalogue hazardous wastes facilities in Canada.

Most provincial governments have begun to develop a stronger capacity to manage hazardous waste treatment, largely through government-owned corporations. For example, the Alberta Special Waste Treatment System, jointly owned by a corporation owned by the Government of Alberta and a private-sector partner, is currently undergoing an expansion. The system includes transfer stations, a transportation system, and North America's first fully integrated hazardous waste treatment plant. The centre treats those hazardous wastes that remain after waste minimization and that cannot be handled by conventional methods.

The Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation is constructing a central treatment, storage and transfer facility in Manitoba. There are already several small treatment/storage facilities located in the province.