

introductions to appropriate regional environment committee officials, and to learn about legal requirements for state-level environmental impact assessments and project design before proceeding to contact regional officials directly.

- c. Contact with Municipal Authorities. The importance of local municipal authorities in exercising control over the start up and operation of projects with environmental impact was referred to frequently. As noted in PHL's Interim Report, these authorities can sometimes give approval to a project in advance of, or against the wishes of, the Moscow authorities. An article in the March 29, 1993 New York Times, ("In Russia, It's Business as Usual) points out that "(S)ince the breakup of the Soviet Union (American) companies doing business there have come to see developments at the municipal level as having more immediate relevance to their operations than power struggles in the central government. "Many companies have made their deals with regional authorities, so what happens in Moscow has little effect on them," said Robert Hormats, vice-chairman of Goldman Sachs International."

An example of the functioning of a local environmental authorities is the **Moscow City Committee on Environment**. If a sewage treatment plant were to be built in Moscow, it would first be proposed by the Moscow Water Authority to the Mayor's Office, from which funds would have to be obtained for the plant. Once the Mayor's Office agreed in principle that the plant should be built, the **Moscow City Committee on the Environment** would begin feasibility studies in cooperation with the Water Authority. Once these studies were completed, the State government for the Moscow Region and other municipal agencies such as the Sanitation Supervision Committee