- elimination of lead in paint; and

- 40 per cent reduction in the industrial emission of reactive organic gases.

To date, the Mexico City air program has been successful in reducing the levels of lead, carbon monoxide, and sulphur dioxide. Ozone is currently the most harmful pollutant in the region and has accordingly been identified as a priority.

F. HAZARDOUS WASTES

Mexico uses a combination of characteristics, listing and an extraction test to determine what constitutes a hazardous waste. Siting of disposal facilities is stringent with regard to aquifer-connected zones, and less stringent with regard to flood and seismic zones. Mexico does not require the installation of a double liner underneath landfills, or impose closure or financial responsibility requirements on facilities. Currently authorized and operating disposal capacity in Mexico consists of seven recycling and three disposal facilities.

As in other areas of environmental regulation, Mexican controls on the management of hazardous waste tend to be more stringent for new sources than for existing sources. Most notably, a company wishing to construct a facility that will generate or manage hazardous waste must receive prior government authorization, a process that also involves an environmental impact assessment. Construction of a new facility is subject to detailed siting criteria. New facilities must also use "best available technology," while existing sources are called on to strengthen pollution controls and to recycle. Provisions for corrective action may be part of the fairly specific and detailed operating authorization.

Mexico requires generators of wastes to both register and file periodic reports on the volumes and types generated. Both new and existing facilities must reduce the volume of waste generated, and then apply physical, chemical or biological treatment to waste. Hazardous waste must ultimately be disposed of in a controlled confinement or disposal facility in accordance with applicable TENs and regulations. Storage of hazardous waste is also subject to specific regulatory requirements. Although not completely identical, the TENs and regulations for hazardous wastes are detailed and similar to their U.S. counterparts. The most significant differences between the Mexican and U.S. legal regimes governing hazardous waste disposal are that SEDESOL has not yet promulgated treatment-oriented land disposal restrictions equivalent to those under the American Resource Conservation and Recovery Act or addressed the issue of leaking underground storage tanks. SEDESOL has indicated its intention to address these issues in the near future.

The Mexican federal government has only "normative" responsibility over municipal waste, which is under local control. SEDESOL has identified three prototypes of "correct" landfills and provides technical assistance and information to municipalities for developing and operating landfills and other solid waste disposal facilities.

Mexico lacks an equivalent to the U.S. Superfund program or Canada's Contaminated Sites program, although it has established a program to solicit voluntary contributions from industry for clean-up of abandoned hazardous waste sites. SEDESOL's role in implementing the program is to identify sites, select remedial action and provide oversight.