

Pollution Control

The Department of the Environment was created under the Government Organization Act and officially came into being on June 11, 1971. Many of the Department's components were brought together from existing departments, such as Fisheries and Forestry, Energy, Mines and Resources, National Health and Welfare, Regional Economic Expansion, Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and the Department of Transport. The Department was given the responsibility for "environmental quality", and for the protection and enhancement of the country's renewable resources, and the encouragement of their wise use.

Recognizing the need to tackle pollution problems seriously, the Government assigned this task to the Environmental Protection Service (EPS). In addition to responsibility for "problem surveillance" and pollution-control in the water and in the air, EPS is charged with management of solid waste, the control and disposal of environmental contaminants, control of activities having an environmental effect, operation of an emergency pollution-control centre and management of the federal clean-up program.

In carrying out these tasks, EPS maintains close liaison with the provincial governments and with industry. Its activities are carried out by three directorates: Water-Pollution Control, Air-Pollution Control and Environmental-Impact Control.