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### *5) State Governments are Important*

The State governments are the prime enforcement agencies. In some cases, state governments establish more ambitious targets than the minimums set by the federal EPA. However, it has been suggested that environmental enforcement by state governments tends to lag during tough economic periods. Even in periods of economic growth, the absolute number of polluted sites and emitting sources generally outweigh the enforcement capabilities and resources of the state in question, thus making enforcement a challenging task.

As in Canada, individual state governments are also responsible for the licensing of engineers. While many states have reciprocal engineering accreditation arrangements, there is only one such arrangement with Canada (New Brunswick and Maine). To conduct U.S. work, Canadian engineers must either write and pass the two-step accreditation process<sup>5</sup> or enter arrangements with local firms to handle the "stamping" of all work in the given state.

### *6) Enforcement is Increasing*

The EPA is substantially increasing its enforcement capabilities. One-quarter of all EPA civil penalties ever collected were obtained during 1990. Fines imposed in 1990 totalled \$US 91 million, and will likely continue to increase as the EPA augments its enforcement efforts. The EPA spends about \$60 million annually on enforcement and employs over 600 people in this regard. It is estimated that the EPA will have 200 criminal investigators by 1995 compared to fewer than 50 in 1990.

### *7) Public Opinion can be Misleading*

As in Canada, the sentiments of "the people leading the politicians on environmental issues" is often expressed. Yet, it is likely that such claims are worth a closer examination. For example, non-point source pollution is a major problem in the United States. Do-it-yourself auto mechanics, for instance, dump the equivalent of 16 Exxon Valdez oil spills into American sewers and dumpsites each year! This is not a characteristic of an environmentally sensitive public.

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<sup>5</sup> In the U.S., the "EIT" exam is written shortly after graduation and covers a range of engineering disciplines. Approximately three years later an engineering "business practices" exam is written. The latter generally does not pose problems for Canadians, although the former does present problems for those Canadian engineers who are several years past graduation. There are centres in Canada where the EIT exam can be written. Canadian firms entering the U.S. market should have their younger engineers write these exams.