

initiated a number of steps, including enforcement actions, to improve overall compliance.

- U.S. border states currently have adequate hazardous waste management capacity for the hazardous wastes they receive from Mexico, which is only a small portion of waste managed in these states. The need for future capacity in either country that might be associated with the NAFTA, and with the efforts of the U.S. and Mexican governments in improving compliance with maquiladora requirements, is not known.
- The U.S. and Mexico have signed (and Mexico has ratified) the Basel Convention which addresses transboundary movements of hazardous wastes, municipal wastes, and municipal incinerator ash. When in force, the convention will require government notice and consent prior to export and will use a standard of environmentally sound management for all transboundary waste movements.
- In time, it is anticipated that the NAFTA will result in an elimination of the legal distinctions of the maquiladora program, as its duty exemptions are phased out. (Maquiladora facilities are likely to continue to be in use, however.) As a result, increasing proportions of hazardous wastes generated in Mexico might well be disposed of in Mexico, rather than exported to the U.S. This would require additional hazardous waste management capacity in Mexico. If the NAFTA allows for the entry of U.S. hazardous waste management firms into the Mexican market, their presence should assist Mexico in developing enhanced hazardous waste management capacity. In addition, EPA is a source of technical assistance in the area of permitting of waste management facilities in order to ensure environmentally sound disposal.
- Without a NAFTA, continued (and perhaps, increased) growth of the maquiladora sector could result in increases in the volume of wastes exported to the U.S. in compliance with Mexican maquiladora law.

Chemical Emergencies:

- Growth in the border area could result in an increased risk of chemical emergencies, if the incidence of accidents in chemical production, storage or transport remains constant.
- The U.S. and Mexico have established an Inland Joint Response Team (JRT) to coordinate emergency preparedness and response activities. The JRT has not yet been activated for an emergency, but members of the team have assisted in the resolution of several incidents in three border communities.

Endangered Species and Wildlife:

- About 50 endangered species and over 100 "candidate" endangered species may be potentially affected by growth in the border region and Northern Mexico.
- Increased use of water for industry, residences and agriculture could alter rivers, springs and wetlands and remove brush habitat. If not designed with species