Hazardous Waste Materials Market

Of the original one billion pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) produced in the U.S., an estimated 330 million pounds still remain in closed and controlled use, principally in electrical transformers.

The EPA has designated 1,211 hazardous waste sites as posing the greatest threat or potential threat to human health and the environment. These sites appear on EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) and are eligible for remedial action funded under the Superfund program. Only 15 states have commercial landfills for disposal of hazardous wastes. See Page 4-7 for a list of New England Superfund sites.

The U.S. market for all sorbent material is over 13 billion pounds and the market will grow at an average annual rate of 3%, reaching 15 billion pounds by 1995.

Approximately 1,400 leaks per month from underground storage tanks (UST's) are reported to EPA, with an estimated 2.0 million UST's at 670,000 facilities. A total of 450,000 tanks are estimated to be leaking their contents and an estimated 10-15% of current tanks are expected closed permanently. An estimated 30,000 contractors and consultants supply services in such areas as tank removal and installation, remediation contracting, tank lining, well drilling, tank testing and consulting.

In 1989, between 800,000 and 1 million metric tons of lead were used in lead-acid batteries, representing approximately 80% of total U.S. lead consumption. The current rate of battery recycling is about 80-85%.

In 1989 approximately 141,000 tons of hazardous waste were exported from the U.S. to nine countries. Canada received 74% of the exports, Mexico 20%, and 6% went to the United Kingdom, West Germany, Finland, Belgium, Japan, Sweden and South Africa.

Water Pollution Control Market

According to the EPA, federal, state and local governments will have to spend over $80 billion over the next 20 years to build and improve publicly-owned sewage treatment facilities. The largest needs are for new or improved secondary treatment costing $25 billion and for controlling combined sewer overflows at $16.5 billion. There are also supplemental state estimates totaling $30 billion for additional wastewater treatment needs in 40 states and territories. When added together, the total national wastewater treatment needs in excess of $110 billion.

Since 1972 Congress has provided over $57 billion in sewage treatment plant construction grants to 59 states and territories. The 1993 federal fiscal budget includes $18.3 million for EPA research for biotechnological research programs.

As of the end of 1991, there were only 44 accredited environmental laboratories in the U.S., Canada, Korea, Italy and Switzerland.