

year 2000. Four hydropower generating projects are being developed and implemented currently. Some tenders have already been let and more will come for cable, insulators, conductors, fittings, towers, substations and transformers.

In addition to its own internal developments, Egypt is a major partner in three electrical grid projects. These include the Egypt Zaire Interconnect, the North Africa Network which will link up eventually to Europe through Spain, and the Europe/Islamic Countries grid linking Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Turkey.

The Government of Egypt has placed a priority on reducing imports by increasing local manufacturing capability whenever possible. Indeed Bechtel Egypt and AECL Canada were commissioned to carry out a study to identify local companies capable of joint venturing with foreign partners to produce equipment for the nuclear industry, when and if nuclear power development becomes a reality.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES**

Because of the myriad of other priorities which it has had to address, the Government of Egypt is only now getting around to environmental concerns. While this makes it extremely difficult to pinpoint projects which are imminent or even in the planning stages, it creates an advantage for Canadian companies. The environment market in Egypt is now in the process of being shaped and defined. By being in on the ground floor Canadian companies can get an early jump on opportunities. The most difficult barrier is financial: Egypt cannot or most likely will not pay for environmental cleanup. Funding will have to come from bilateral or multilateral sources. In general countries or donors determine the sub-sectors they want to pursue. For example, water treatment has received the attention of Denmark, European Community (EC), Italy, U.K. and the U.S.A., while Denmark in conjunction with Germany and the World Bank is currently working on a project to reduce air pollution in the Helwan area, a suburb of Cairo.

The recently completed national environmental action plan focuses on the following specific areas: water resources management, land resources management, air pollution, solid wastes, marine and coastal resources, institutional issues, global heritage preservation, and generally raising the public's awareness of environmental issues. The action plan calls for investments of about US \$300 to 500 million during phase 1 which could last up to five years. The highest priorities are those for strengthening environmental institutions and actions to rescue industrial pollution of water and air.

Many countries are already involved in environment protection projects. At the top of the list are Denmark, the European Community (EC), Italy, the U.K., the Netherlands, U.S.A., Finland, Germany, Japan and Switzerland. The World Bank and the UNDP are also playing leading roles in the institutional strengthening of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency.