

## **PETROLEOS MEXICANOS**

*Petróleos Mexicanos (PEMEX)*, the national oil company, manages the exploration, production and marketing of virtually all crude oil and refined oil products in the country. In 1993, *PEMEX* was divided into a holding company with several operating subsidiaries.

The *PEMEX* Environment Division has a mandate to develop standards and consolidate environmental information. One of its functions is to conduct environmental assessments and to ensure compliance with government regulations. Many of these assessments are contracted to private consultants, mainly from the United States. The subsidiaries each have equivalent, but smaller, environment departments.

*PEMEX* Gas and Petrochemicals Division is making a priority of site and soil remediation. It has many properties that are contaminated with acids and spent oils. *PEMEX* Refineries Division is in the process of rehabilitating the wastewater treatment plants at five of its refineries. In July 1994, it awarded build-operate-transfer (BOT) contracts, worth up to US \$50 million each, to four private companies. The successful bidders were typically joint ventures between Mexican construction companies and foreign environmental engineering companies. The refinery unit also has major problems with hazardous waste disposal, especially for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

## **FEDERAL ELECTRICITY COMMISSION**

The *Comisión Federal de Electricidad (CFE)*, Federal Electricity Commission, is a state-owned corporation responsible for providing electrical power to all of Mexico. The *CFE* established an environmental division in 1992 that includes a staff of about 40. The division undertakes environmental impact assessments, risk assessments and also evaluates air, water and solid waste emissions. The *CFE* expects to complete approximately 60 assessments per year.

Like other public enterprises operating in the Valley of Mexico and the northern border area, the *CFE* is under government pressure to reduce air pollution. *CFE* officials say that they have a strong preference for fuel substitution rather than abatement technologies. They also believe that better combustion engineering will reduce harmful emissions at source. The *CFE* also faces major problems with hazardous waste, including spent oils, tires, batteries, sulphuric acid, chlorine, pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).