water pollution activities of the department are carried out by the public health engineering and radiation protection divisions of the health services branch and by the medical services branch. The department works closely with the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources in these activities. They include advisory responsibilities, surveillance, special studies and research. The department also supports outside water pollution activities through its national health grants program. Close collaboration with the provinces is maintained in the conduct of all these activities.

The advisory services provided keep these people indeed busy. Departmental staff serve on a number of advisory committees and boards such as the International Development Commission technical advisory boards, the Atlantic Development Board's supervisory committee on resource study of the Atlantic provinces, the interdepartmental committee on water programs, Central Mortgage and Housing advisory committee on household sewage treatment units, the reactor safety advisory committee of the atomic energy control board and various provincial pollution committees. But the department's activities go beyond just advising a host of committees. There is an important surveillance function fulfilled. Allow me to cite some examples.

International Joint Commission studies currently involve the St. Croix river, New Brunswick, and the Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and international section of the St. Lawrence river. Measurements are made of physical, chemical and bacteriological parameters including turbidity, suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand, dissolved oxygen, phosphorus, nirtogen, phenols, toxic constituents, coliform and fecal organisms.

Another project follows from completion of a comprehensive inventory of federal facilities, where assessment studies of waste water treatment plants are being undertaken at five regional centres across Canada.

In a more specialized field, the department determines radioactive effluent discharged into the environs of nuclear reactor sites, through a systematic reactor environment monitoring project, including water samples taken near Chalk River reactors, the nuclear power demonstration reactor, the Douglas Point nuclear power station and the Whiteshell nuclear research establishment. Another task is keeping a regular check on potable water supplies aboard common carriers.

[Mr. Isabelle.]

There are also special investigations done towards specific goals, over a short period of time. I would point out that this often leads into a continuing surveillance study. Two examples of this are: a pilot plant project at the request of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown, to develop an effective method of treating food processing wastes having high bio-chemical oxygen demand and suspended solids characteristics, and, at the request of New Brunswick, pollution assessment studies on international rivers emptying into the Saint John river—including the Meduxnekeag, Presquile and the Aroostock rivers.

This may not sound exciting, but I can assure you that they are vital to maintaining a proper audit of the health effects of water pollution, both immediately, and more importantly, potentially. Similarly unglamourous, but immensely valuable to the protection of Canadian health, is the department's research program. Current projects give an idea of the long range importance of these studies. To cite some, I would name the development of effective methods for the removal of phenols from industrial wastes; the development of effective methods for the disposal of digested sludge; the development of effective methods for the enumeration of bacterial pollution indices; the development of effective methods for the microbiological oxidation of specific organic matter; the development of effective methods for the isolation of salmonellae from water and waste water, and the development of Canadian drinking water standards.

But above the water, there is the sky, and the sky today in many places is not the pristine fresh blue of our grandfather's era. Each and every day in our metropolitan areas, the exhausts of tens of thousands of automobiles, the stacks of scores of industries, and the fumes of countless heating plants and units belch forth their smoke and gas into the atmosphere. Even the rural areas are not immune; pesticides used in crop control are not just harmless mists. The current debate on d.d.t. points up the potential hazards of even long used materials, let alone the numerous new products being introduced on the market annually.

We talk of the "big sky" but we must realize that there are definite limits to the amount of cubic feet of air that can safely absorb the junk, if I might use that term, that our affluent western industrial society expels upward. In the past, in many large cities intensive weather conditions of a special nature have combined with air pollution