

## **MEXICAN INSTITUTE OF WATER TECHNOLOGY**

The *Instituto Mexicano de Tecnología del Agua (IMTA)* is the Mexican Institute of Water Technology. The *IMTA*'s mandate is to develop and transfer technologies related to the efficient use of water, and to provide water management training. It offers consulting and engineering services, and is responsible for training municipal and state employees involved in water treatment. In 1993, the operation of *IMTA*'s technical workshops for water systems was contracted to five foreign companies, including the Ontario Environmental Training Consortium.

## **SECRETARIAT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION**

The *Secretaría de Comunicaciones y Transportes (SCT)*, Secretariat of Communications and Transportation, is now responsible for transporting hazardous waste. They will issue all relevant standards and will regulate the transportation companies. In spite of this change, the *Instituto Nacional de Ecología (INECO)*, National Institute of Ecology, still has to approve any transportation of hazardous waste.

## **SECRETARIAT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

The *Secretaría de Desarrollo Social (SEDESOL)*, Secretariat of Social Development, continues to have overall authority for urban planning policy. *SEDESOL* will continue to be responsible for developing infrastructure, including new municipal and state wastewater treatment plants and solid waste facilities. According to officials interviewed for this profile, its role will be more "promotional" in the future, since the secretariat does not have a budget for direct project sponsorship.

## **MUNICIPALITIES**

The *Banco Nacional de Obras y Servicios Públicos (BANOBRAS)*, National Bank of Construction and Public Works, has been encouraging the privatization of municipal water systems. Last year, it allocated funds for 1995 to pay for technical studies to help municipalities to develop feasible packages. Most observers believe that little of this financing will actually be realized, because of the economic crisis. Most private companies interested in participating in build-operate-transfer (BOT) projects are already doing their own studies and offering them to the municipal and/or state governments for review.