1.2.- LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

One of the main problems when evaluating the Chilean environmental impact of all productive activity is the **lack of national policies** that could be integrated into one unique set of laws with the responsible authorities clearly established. Laws, norms and control are dispersed in several public institutions. Many government organizations such as SNS (National Health Service), Ministry of Public Works (MOP), General Directorate of Waters (DGA), Ministry of Mines, Ministry of National Goods, Agricultural Service (SAG), National Forest Corporation (CONAF) and regional courts have some role in managing the environment (monitoring, evaluation, control, authorization, decision making, norms dictation, sanctions), but there is no coordination in these actions.

The **Instituto Nacional de Normalización (INN-CHILE)** is a public organization dependent of the Ministry of Public Works (MOP) in charge of the elaboration of all Chilean guidelines, ie. water and air quality, sanitation of edible products, drinking water, plant treatment. The INN is member of the International Organization for Standarization (ISO) and of the Comisión Panamericana de Normas Técnicas (COPANT). The control of these norms is responsibility of many public institution, ie: water quality control is carried out by MOP (Ministry of Public Affairs), through DGA (General Directorate of Waters), while air control is carried out by Ministry of Health and Ministry of Transportation. If contaminants flow to the sea or other water masses under the Navy jurisdiction, the control and regulation is responsibility of the Dirección General de Territorio Marítimo y Marina Mercante (General Directorate of Marine Lands and Merchant Marine) dependent of the Chilean Navy. So, none of the institutions mentioned above will take full responsibility of the environment, but also, the institutions are unable to detect environmental problems. As mentioned before, problems caused by the mine tailings in Chañaral