

control and prevention is likewise most elaborate. The problem in water pollution abatement and the attempts at nationwide resolution thereof have, however, many analogies with those increasingly apparent in air and soil pollution, to which less space has been devoted in the present review.

In the exposition which follows, the primary desire has been to determine—

- (a) What the national objectives in fact are;
- (b) The factual basis upon which action has been delineated; namely, the impacts of pollution upon man and upon nature in general;
- (c) The nature and/or the universality of standards of environmental quality;
- (d) The economic or money benefits resident in costs;
- (e) The significance of geographical diversity;
- (f) The validity or invalidity of crisis action; and
- (g) The identification of underpinning (research and development) required for more effective action and more verification of deleterious effects, if any.

These purposes have been recently translated into realistic congressional values by Congressman Daddario in the following terms:

- (1) To improve judgment of alternative actions and timetables in pollution abatement legislation;
- (2) To assess the responsiveness of executive agency administrative action to the intent of Congress;
- (3) To improve the analysis of costs and benefits to the Nation in areas of subjective judgment, such as aesthetic considerations;
- (4) To prevent waste of funds in hasty and ill-considered implementation of pollution laws;
- (5) To establish baseline definitions of environmental quality, forecast future pollution loads, and assess the results of abatement activities; and
- (6) To arrange for the optimum participation of Federal, State, and local governments, and the private sector in developing and employing advanced techniques for pollution abatement.

THE NATURE OF WATER POLLUTION

Pollution is an unnatural and undesirable change in either the visible or invisible characteristics of a body of water. Pollution may thus be regarded as a condition often traceable to the activities of man and subject to his control. Hence, it is a condition deemed unsuitable at a given time and place for a given use.

Where Nature alone is responsible for variations in water quality, it is inappropriate to describe such changes as evidence of pollution. While the changes may be undesirable, generally they are not susceptible to control by man who must either limit his use of such waters or otherwise adapt to the situation. Thus we find swampland waters used for sources of domestic supply whose natural acidity would cause these waters to be classified as polluted and rejected as unsuitable in other areas where waters normally are alkaline. People living along rivers that drain the flatlands of the prairie accept as a matter of course that these sluggish waterways are naturally destined to be