

sidering that the amounts being spent are not small—one investigation project is budgeted at a million dollars and several others of similar scope are being planned by the same agency—it would appear appropriate that attention be focused on the disposition of Federal funds for mine acid control with reference to the relative utility of current undertakings and duplication of effort.

Substantial sums are being devoted to rather detailed and long-term survey and research projects. In view of the fact that certain empirical practices have already been proven to be efficacious in minimizing acid mine drainage, the public interest may be better served if a greater portion of the Federal funds were employed at this time in an effort to secure immediate benefits. For example, experience suggests that the construction of diversion ditches to exclude the entry of surface water into abandoned mine workings would yield benefits in acid reduction.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR FUTURE NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL POLICIES

Basic policy questions that confront the Nation today are not unlike those posed 30 years ago when the Congress and the Executive Office of the President riveted serious attention on water pollution control. The debate then, as now, centered on—

- (1) How clean should a stream be, and
- (2) Which level of government should exercise what responsibilities for the abatement of pollution.

However similar the policy questions, a great difference prevails today in the social, economic, and political climate within which the debate is carried on. Socially, there is a mounting pressure to hasten the cleanup of streams. Economically, the affluence of the Nation is such as to dismiss any question that this desire cannot be satisfied. Politically, proponents of Federal control have come a long way in advancing the concept that this is the "painless," if not the preferred way of dealing with the situation.

Therefore under conditions that exist today it is no longer realistic to assert that the States can maintain their traditional posture of individually discharging primary responsibility for all aspects of water pollution control. This does not imply, however, that the States should be supine in determining the goals to be sought nor should they lessen their efforts in bringing about achievement of desired goals.

WHAT LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT?

In seeking accommodation to the circumstances that now exist, it would be appropriate to reassess and delineate the respective roles of Federal, State, and local entities in this common task of water quality management.

Responsibilities have become blurred, with the inevitable result that contentiousness between the Federal and State bureaucracies have hindered both cooperation and coordination. The initiative, as well as the authority, of the States has suffered from erosion by statements and actions calculated to enhance Federal control.

As a guiding principle for making an accommodation that is compatible with circumstances and needs, this philosophy might be