

investigated and are not well understood. There is no question that the Federal Government, at least initially, will have to take a leading role in the conduct and support of this kind of research, since industry has demonstrated little interest in it, other than that motivated by short-term economic interests. Hopefully, after the Federal Government began to place needed emphasis on this type of research and development and the public became aware of where its interests lay, industry would join in the national effort to help resolve the solid waste disposal problem by reducing the volume of consumer materials to be disposed of.

*Question 10: What is the strategy used for planning and programming for research and development and pollution abatement insofar as they affect the interdependencies in the environment? Is the National Science Foundation kept continuously advised of gaps and needs in technical knowledge? Are urban renewal activities coordinated with pollution research and development programs? What systems analysis techniques are being used to give proper consideration to all forms of pollution in a given area? What coordination is effected, for example, with the Corps of Engineers in the disposal of polluted material dredged from rivers and harbors?*

Answer: A summary of the ways in which the Division of Air Pollution coordinates its activities with those of other Federal agencies is provided under the reply to question 5.

The challenge of dealing with problems of environmental contamination clearly requires a high degree of coordination among all those Government agencies which share in the responsibility for preventing and controlling such problems. There is a need for coordination with respect to planning and policymaking as well as day-to-day management and operation of pollution research and control activities. As yet, arrangements to meet this need have not been fully developed, either at the Federal level or at State and local levels.

One of the most important reasons why a high level of coordination is necessary in this field is that many contaminants of the modern environment reach man not through air or water or food alone, but through all of these and often through occupational exposures, as well. Because the basis for concern about such contaminants is their potential hazard to public health, governmental agencies with responsibility and experience in the health field should logically be assuming leadership in assessing these problems and dealing with them.

On the Federal level, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is taking steps to permit a broader and more comprehensive attack on environmental contamination problems than has even been undertaken before. One of the principal steps, being taken as part of a reorganization of the Public Health Service, is the creation of a new Bureau of Disease Prevention and Environmental Control. This new component will coordinate research activities carried on by various Public Health Service units concerned with the separate segments of the total problem of environmental contamination, insofar as those activities relate to contaminants which may reach man through more than one environmental vector. The units involved include the Division of Air Pollution, the Division of Radiological Health, the Office of