

Trends in the quantity of process water used per ton of product indicate a reduced ratio, which is to say that industry in general is working hard toward cutting water demand and waste output. Per capita use of municipal water supplies, conversely, is still on the increase. However, as our society grows, not only in numbers but in complexity, our industrial effort moves at a faster rate than our population. Thus it seems reasonable to assume that the problem of the future will continue to reflect a rough equivalency of industrial and municipal waste loads. A radical change in proportion does not appear likely.

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Water management starts with sound standards of pollution control. Only relatively pure water can be used again and again. And our water shortage problems can never be solved unless we can use present supplies many times over. This multiple reuse requires water quality standards that are compatible with the greatest number of reasonable water uses in an area and commensurate with public health, but not necessarily permissive of all water uses possible in an area.

Industry needs standards that can be administered, that are administered, and against which industry can measure its own performance or judge its risk in further capital investment.

There remains the problem of paying for these water management programs. These national public interest aspects of water management suggest that another requirement for solving the Nation's water problems at a reasonable cost is an incentive for water purification by private industry as well as government. The conclusion seems logical that to supplement public expenditures for water purification, water movement, and water management, the principles of rapid tax amortization or the investment tax credit may well be used to stimulate private capital investment in required water pollution abatement facilities.

We have tried through this special issue of the Interpace Technical Journal to advance the understanding of problems that must be solved in pollution abatement and water resources development. We hope that the committee will find it helpful and informative in their current deliberations.