

the role of these watershed authorities which now manage most of the pollution problems of the watershed by collecting a revenue and treating the wastes of the communities and some industries.¹⁷

The French act is very broad in scope and leaves its implementation to the Conseil d'Etat (Council of State) through state agencies with water pollution control responsibilities, such as the Higher Council of Public Health, the Directorate of Water and Forestry, the Highways Administration, the Rural Engineering Administration, the Department of Housing, the Higher Council of Fisheries, the Ministry of Commerce and other national and local agencies. The act, for purposes of planning and implementation, sets up specific river basin authorities representing water users, local government, and other units of government. It also provides for financing, the right to levy revenues and even the power to collect effluent taxes from the polluters to compensate for the harm they caused to the general economy. The act authorizes financially autonomous river basin authorities which can implement water management on a comprehensive basis.¹⁸

It is probably in the United Kingdom where one finds the most sophisticated decentralized system of water quality management. While the Minister of Housing and Local Government has responsibilities in the formulation of national policy and hearing of appeals, broad comprehensive pollution control authority rests with 27 river authorities covering the entire Nation. They are responsible for not only the management of water pollution control matters, but matters relating to the entire water resource program. Each authority is, by law, an independent corporation and is not subject to detailed supervision by any central government agency although in many of its administrative duties, it may have to obtain central government consent and its decisions regarding applications for permits to discharge effluents into a stream are subject to appeal to the Minister. The river authority is governed by between 21 and 31 members which do not receive any remuneration except for expenses. The authority has a staff and is financed by contributions from the counties and boroughs which it serves.¹⁹

The organization of the water pollution control program in Poland provides a contrast to the United Kingdom insofar as its program is a highly centralized one. The agency responsible for water pollution control under the new 1961 law is the Central Water Economy Office, an office established outside of the purview of any of the existing ministries or departments. It is directly under the supervision of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers and has responsibility for coordinating all problems of water resources development in the Polish Government. The Water Economy Office is represented at lower levels of government but these are merely units of the central office. The office is responsible for the coordination of all state offices which have any responsibilities in the water field.²⁰ The 1961 act provides for the development of regional plans for the protection of water.

In Yugoslavia, the responsibility for water pollution rests with the central government for the more important streams and with the local units of government for the less important ones. This, as in Holland,

¹⁷ Lyon and Maneval, *op. cit.*, p. 9.

¹⁸ Dondoux, P., in Litwin, *op. cit.*, pp. 96-97.

¹⁹ Garner, J. F., *op. cit.*, 150-151.

²⁰ Litwin, *op. cit.*, p. 117.