

provide a base for viable solution in all cases, it offers an attractive alternative in many instances, as fewer and fewer water problems can be handled adequately on a purely local basis.

REGULATION

Primary responsibility for the regulation of water quality rests at the State level. State agencies with water pollution responsibilities set standards, enforce laws and regulations, conduct surveys, and carry out a host of allied research and planning activities. The agencies involved vary from State to State. All State health departments have a branch which administers water pollution control programs. As the public health factor became relatively less important in water quality regulation and economic, conservation, and recreation considerations grew in significance, State water pollution control boards or commissions were created. More than half the States have such agencies. The remainder place primary responsibility for water pollution control in the State health department or a water resources agency. Water pollution control boards often include members from other State agencies with water responsibilities. Minnesota's Water Pollution Control Commission is composed of the commissioner of conservation, the executive engineer of the department of health, and representatives of the State board of health, State livestock and sanitation board, the commissioner of agriculture, and three members appointed by the Governor. Most State water pollution control boards or commissions have public members representing municipalities and industry.

All State health agencies regulate water and sewage facilities in urban areas. The division of sanitation engineering in the State health department normally certifies public water supplies and approves plans and specifications for new water works and extensions. Generally, it also has responsibility for insuring that public health and water pollution standards are met by municipal sewage treatment facilities. The emphasis in these programs is upon public health requirements.

In most States, the health agencies also have a role in new residential development. Most State legislatures require the health department to insure that adequate water and sewage facilities are being provided in new subdivisions. As the inadequacies of individual water supply and sewage disposal systems have become apparent, a number of States have adopted more stringent regulations in recent years. The primary concern of the health departments, however, has been the adequacy of suburban facilities in terms of public health considerations. Most State health agencies have paid relatively little attention to the diseconomies involved in the use of individual systems, the conservation of ground water supplies, and overall patterns of regional development.

State regulation of water quality includes a number of activities in addition to health department supervision and regulation. In most States, water pollution control agencies have the power to establish quality standards and to classify waters according to their best social and economic use. A number of States also prescribe the type of treatment that water users must provide to maintain the quality standard for a particular classification. Stream classification is most common in the East, where pollution has already seriously affected water quality. Several Western States utilize effluent regulations spec-