

National policies for urban water supply and pollution control must change to meet the impact of population growth, increased per capita consumption, and industrial use. A comprehensive and well-understood national goal for urban water supply and sewage disposal is needed, within which gaps in programs can be filled and individual activities coordinated. A national policy should be established by the President and the Congress covering the provision of adequate water supply and pollution control in a broad framework of promoting sound development of the Nation's urban areas, including assistance to State and local governments to accomplish this purpose.

An important Federal responsibility, in cooperation with the States, is the development of comprehensive river basin policies that will give full consideration to urban needs. Federal activity has been crucial to comprehensive multipurpose river basin development in the past; it is likely to remain so in the future. The Federal Government should insure that water resource planning and development by each of its water agencies, and on each river basin in which the Federal Government has an immediate interest, take into account the needs of urban areas as well as the needs of agriculture, power production, industry, recreation, fish, and wildlife.

The Water Supply Act of 1958 was a major step forward in recognizing Federal responsibility to help meet urban water supply requirements. It provides authority for the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation to include municipal and industrial water supply capacity in reservoirs under their jurisdiction to meet immediate and anticipated future demands. The Water Resources Planning Act of 1965 establishes a Federal Water Resources Council and provides a procedure for establishing river basin commissions to develop plans on a comprehensive and coordinated basis for the optimum use of water and related land resources. The Council is to review plans with special regard to the effect "on the achievement of other programs for the development of agriculture, urban, energy, industrial, recreational, fish and wildlife, and other resources of the entire Nation." Senate Document No. 97, 87th Congress, 2d session, May 24, 1962, which was prepared under the direction of the President's Water Resources Council (the predecessor of the statutory council), establishes executive branch policies and standards for Federal water resource projects which emphasize comprehensive, multiple-purpose planning and development with concurrent provision for the various uses including municipal water supply.

Another important Federal responsibility is a strengthened program of assistance to States for assuring adequate long-term urban water supplies. This program of technical assistance would supplement the traditional Federal-State relationships that already exist in water quality programs. To accomplish this objective, the appropriate Federal departments and agencies should aid States and interstate agencies in planning for the development and use of water resources for domestic, municipal, and industrial purposes. The States should be able to tap the extensive facilities, technical knowledge, and trained personnel of the various Federal agencies for help in developing new methods, improved technology, and economic research to meet the problems of water supply and quality for urban areas.