

(1) *Direct Federal operation.*—Comprehensive river basin studies, research, training programs, basic data collection, and enforcement studies are conducted primarily as a Federal operation by regional and field offices under headquarters supervision.

Technical assistance is provided appropriate public and private groups and individuals relating to the cause, control, and prevention of water pollution, by requests channeled through State water pollution control agencies.

(2) *Federal grants-in-aid and contracts.*—The program provides the following types of grants and contracts:

(a) *Research, training, demonstration, and research fellowships.*—

These grants are awarded to appropriate authorities, agencies, institutions, and individuals in the conduct of studies and training related to the causes, control, and prevention of water pollution.

(b) *State control program.*—Grants are provided State and interstate water pollution control agencies to assist them in conducting their programs.

(c) *Waste treatment works construction grants.*—Grants to assist municipalities construct waste treatment facilities are provided in this program.

(d) *Combined sewer grants.*—Grants for research and development into new and improved methods for separation of combined sewer wastes.

(e) *Contracts.*—Contracts are made with private individuals and/or agencies, institutions, and organizations for conducting special studies related to water pollution control.

(f) *Training program.*—Grants-in-aid are provided under the research and training grant program mentioned above. In-house training is also conducted by program staff at the Sanitary Engineering Center in Cincinnati.

3. History

Before 1948, Federal concern for water pollution was mostly confined to control of pollution of coastal waters from oil by ships, to research and surveys, and to technical assistance to State and local governments chiefly in regard to water-borne diseases. The first general Federal pollution control regulation was passed in 1948. Permanent water pollution control legislation, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Public Law 84-660, was enacted in 1956. This act provided legislation of a comprehensive nature and permitted Federal participation in a wide variety of activities. The act's provisions were strengthened and extended in 1961. Among other things, the act provided for comprehensive river basin programs, enforcement, technical assistance, an expanded research program; and, grants for construction of waste treatment facilities, State programs, research, training, demonstrations, and fellowships. The Water Quality Act of 1965, Public Law 89-234, amended the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. It established a Water Pollution Control Administration within the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, provided for grants for research and development for separating wastes in combined sewers, authorized an increase in grant amounts for constructing sewage treatment works, and required water quality criteria to be established on interstate streams.

Since 1956, the program has helped to construct over 6,000 waste treatment projects, initiated 38 pollution control enforcement actions