

water will not be available to water planners in time to offer an alternative to other more expensive water sources. Furthermore, it should be noted that industry does participate in desalting research to some extent. Present expenditure by industry on desalting research is about 10 percent of the total U.S. desalting research expenditure. Industry has seen fit to concentrate most of its efforts on the reverse osmosis and distillation processes.

Studies⁽¹⁾ have been made in an attempt to identify specifically where the benefits of a Federal desalting program will fall. Some of the future benefits will be localized where a community is able to achieve cheaper water through desalting. By the year 2000 it seems likely that desalted water will be economically used to some extent in all of the water resource regions of the United States. Thus the benefit from being able to obtain water by desalting cheaper than from another source will be spread throughout the Nation although the spread will be somewhat uneven with the Pacific Southwest area having about half the Nation's desalting capacity.

Improved desalting technology is expected to bring many other real but difficult to measure benefits to the Nation as