

The Present Status of Desalting

As of this date, worldwide, there are an estimated 700 desalting plants of a capacity of 25,000 gallons per day or larger capable of producing an approximate total of 300 mgd for purposes normally satisfied under more favorable circumstances than from the hydrological cycle. The best actually attained costs of water at a U.S. plant on a 90 percent load factor basis are 35 cents per 1000 gallons for a 1.2 mgd electrodialysis plant (Siesta Key, Florida) using a feed water containing approximately 1,400 ppm total dissolved solids and 95 cents per 1000 gallons on the same basis for a 2.6 mgd multistage flash distillation plant at Key West using sea water. The above figures represent actual costs on the basis of 1970 dollars and 7 percent fixed charges. Both of these plants are single purpose systems.

A comparable dual purpose power and water distillation plant at Rosarito, Mexico, has been completed but is not yet in full operation. Here the gains from dual purpose operation should provide water at approximately 65 cents per 1000 gallons