

plants to large-size systems producing over a hundred million gallons per day. Energy costs also can be expected to be reduced further with large-scale nuclear energy sources under multi-purpose power and water coupling. On the basis of past experience, estimates suggest unit costs in the vicinity of 45 cents per thousand gallons for these large-scale systems using distillation technology currently in the pilot plant or test module stage of development and assuming a fixed charge rate of 7 percent.

An important factor in achieving economic water through desalting will be an abundant supply of low-cost energy, particularly if large-scale plants are to have any major impact on regional water needs. As such, desalting developments should be closely coordinated with energy resource developments and efforts continued to more effectively relate these two technologies for economic benefit. A systems approach will be needed to achieve the maximum economies for any large-scale plant developments, taking into account the interaction of the desalting plant with its energy source as well as with the system into which it will be introduced.

The costs of distillation processes, aside from the problems of feedwater treatment, scale, corrosion, etc., are not