

The principal characteristics of these regional applications are the very large plant sizes which would be involved (over 100 mgd) and the indispensable requirement that multiple purpose desalting be optimally integrated with the other regional resources. The lead time for constructing large nuclear power and desalting plants which would have a regional application may exceed seven years. Added to this would be the time required for project planning and definition and any prototype or demonstration projects. Thus, a decade is in reality already too short if a 1980 need develops! Using large desalting plants may be the most cost effective and most acceptable solution to many regional water problems. Meeting the critical dates will require careful scheduling of the very substantial amount of work remaining to be done before that goal can be achieved. Note that in the sense used above, "regional" refers to an area whose water requirements can be satisfied most effectively and efficiently by joint action and does not refer to regions defined for other purposes.

It should be pointed out that similar process technology to that used in desalting sea and brackish water is used in advanced waste treatment for pollution control and for wastewater renovation for re-use. Considerable spin-off from the OSW's desalting