

c. Introduction of Desalting into Water Planning

Only a few large-scale public water agencies have the necessary expertise available in their staff and even in these agencies desalting could not, at present, be routinely considered as a potential system component in water planning.

This element of the recommended program is directed toward the transfer to the public water agencies of knowledge about desalting systems, their advantages, their disadvantages and the ways in which both advantages and disadvantages can be used to provide for more economical and more effective water systems. To some extent, this objective will be enhanced by the joint Federal and non-Federal analysis of potential applications recommended above. The western U.S. water plan now being initiated will provide an opportunity to improve understanding of the potential roles desalting can play in sound water planning.

With the introduction of desalting into the water resource picture, planning will have to change from one restricted to water supply and transport to also include the implications of large-scale water manufacture. In many respects desalting will have the character of power generation and distribution; it will be a large consumer of energy, will involve capital intensive