

facilities with limited lifetimes, is readily adaptable to phasing and overall system development to meet a growing consumptive need, and will require technical disciplines, skills and operation more commensurate with sophisticated modern technology than heretofore encountered in most water supply operations.

As has been demonstrated in other technology programs, demonstration or prototype plants in the field environment to provide actual construction and operating experience and data for realistic economic assessments will be most useful in improving utility understanding of the role and capability of desalting for future water supply. In this respect, early construction and operation of these field plants will be needed so that the experience can be factored into the planning cycles for water resource development on a timely basis. After initial operation, such plants could also serve as training facilities for utility operating personnel to further enhance their usefulness.

Sponsorship of short courses, perhaps through universities, is another possible approach. More active participation by research and development staff in national water meetings rather than in symposia concerned only with desalting would