

also be profitable. There should be much closer liaison between the Federal agencies involved in water planning as well. A mechanism to bring relevant interests together is contained in the recommendations of this report.

d. Technical and Financial Assistance to Pioneer Water Authorities to Undertake Prototype Construction

The major obstacles to implementation of desalting technology are the first-of-a-kind costs and risks associated with the development and the refinement of that technology. Until a number of years of operating experience has been obtained under a variety of conditions, the first users bear costs and acquire knowledge which permit subsequent users to reduce costs and improve effectiveness. If uncompensated, the pioneers subsidize the late comers. Worse yet, the pioneering efforts simply do not take place or take place too late to be effective.

Few public water supply agencies have any experience whatsoever in water manufacturing by desalting; hence, there will be an obvious reluctance to adopt the new technologies even when analysis would indicate major savings. These risk, experience, and knowledge factors all suggest that additional incentive will be required if desalting technology is to be advanced to a viable