

First, research and development should recognize that desalting has become of age in the small-sized plant. Secondly, research and development should give more attention to moving to medium-scale desalting. Thirdly, new and promising desalting processes should be carried to the point of both technical feasibility and economic proof. The desalting program likewise should now be seen in context by taking a systems approach to the whole water resources problem and the desalting technology which is part of this whole thrust.

In the future of the R&D phase of a desalting program, it is possible to identify some elements of the total system which have considerable potential for improvement either because they relate to a substantial component of the cost, or because of the promise of favorable results, or both. These selected items are some but not all of the basic R&D programs needed in the future.

(1) Distillation Processes:

To reach the cost reduction goals on which these recommendations depend, these will need technical refinement, together with a scale-up in size. Some of the problems that will appear to need attention in this area are (a) development of improved heat