

V. CONCLUSIONS

The Secretary of the Interior is, of course, responsible for the management and direction of the Federal desalting program administered by the Office of Saline Water. The Federal desalting program to this point has made considerable progress but further advances still remain to be made that are achievable at a cost which makes them attractive. The key objective of the program which appears to offer the greatest net benefits is to make available by the year 2000 desalted sea water at a price which corresponds to 20 cents per thousand gallons in 1970 dollars at the 100 mgd scale and corresponding prices at other scales. At the same time, it is expected that desalted water from brackish sources will be available at a correspondingly decreased cost.

The Secretary of the Interior will, of course, be making detailed recommendations in the coming year. Our overview presented in this report suggests that:

1. It be the policy of the U. S. Government to support an applications oriented program of research, development and application for desalted water which would involve:
 - (a) the continued refinement of the technology of converting saline water to fresh;