



FACTS ON

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION FIVE
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Surveillance Branch

The Surveillance Branch at the present time is composed of two sections; The Technical Services Section and the Monitoring Section.

The Technical Services Section has a number of areas of concern.

One of the current programs receiving much emphasis involves providing the necessary documentation, including inspection, to industrial plants as required by Section 704 of the Tax Reform Act of 1969. This act provides rapid tax amortization for the construction of waste treatment facilities, both air and water.

One of the larger programs at the present time involves support to Section 123 of the 1970 River & Harbors Act. This Section gives the Corps of Engineers the authority to build confined disposal areas at harbors having polluted bottom sediments. Our support to this program involves coordinating the bottom sediment sampling at approximately 50 harbors each year to maintain the necessary classification schedule regarding the bottom sediments, coordinating the site inspections for the confined disposal facilities at approximately 25 locations per year, preparation of priority listings of harbors needing confined facilities each year, and the preparation of waivers of the local 25 percent construction costs when eligible. The Section also reviews the plans of the confined disposal facilities.

Support is also given to the Corps of Engineers three year study of demonstration projects for determining the feasibility of extending the navigation season on the Great Lakes. A member of the Technical Services Section serves as chairman of the Environmental Evaluation Work Group for this three year study as well as a member of the Working Committee.

There are a number of other programs involving ground water, vessel waste, estuarine studies, and agricultural programs that are supported by the Technical Services Section.

In support of agricultural programs the section works closely with the state conservationists and other Department of Agriculture person-

nel to assist in every way we can to help control pollution in their particular areas.

The final area of concern for the Technical Services Section is replying to inquiries and complaints from citizens, congressional sources, and local entities.

The Monitoring Section has three basic functions; data coordination, oil and hazardous materials, and data evaluation.

The data coordination unit obtains water quality data from states and other organizations who monitor water quality, store this data in STORET and assist states in the use of STORET. They maintain municipal and industrial wastes inventories and establish channels for flow of data to and from regional and state programs.

The oil and hazardous materials unit functions include preparation of the regional contingency plan, and review of industrial, state, or other contingency plans. They serve as a clearing house for spill information in the Region, preparing recommendations and referrals to enforcement, and providing support for major cleanups.

The data evaluation unit evaluates the data from long term monitoring networks. Assists in evaluating and designing the network itself. They also publish results of the data evaluation.