

## SECTION XI

### BEST CONVENTIONAL POLLUTANT CONTROL TECHNOLOGY

The 1977 Amendments added Section 301(b)(2)(E) to the Act establishing the "best conventional pollutant control technology" (BCT) for discharges of conventional pollutants from existing industrial point sources. Conventional pollutants are those defined in Section 304(a)(4) [biological oxygen demanding pollutants (e.g., BOD<sub>5</sub>), total suspended solids (TSS), fecal coliform, and pH], and any additional pollutants defined by the Administrator as "conventional" (oil and grease, 44 FR 44501, July 30, 1979).

BCT is not an additional limitation but replaces BAT for the control of conventional pollutants. In addition to other factors specified in Section 304(b)(4)(B), the Act requires that BCT limitations be assessed in light of a two part "cost-reasonableness" test. American Paper Institute v. EPA, 660 F.2d 954 (4th Cir. 1981). The first test compares the cost for private industry to reduce its conventional pollutants with the costs to publicly owned treatment works for similar levels of reduction in their discharge of these pollutants. The second test examines the cost-effectiveness of additional industrial treatment beyond BPT. EPA must find that limitations are "reasonable" under both tests before establishing them as BCT. In no case may BCT be less stringent than BPT.

EPA has determined that the treatment alternatives considered in this rulemaking that are more stringent than the best practicable control technology currently available are capable of removing significant amounts of conventional pollutants. Therefore, EPA is deferring establishing BCT limitations for this category until a BCT methodology has been promulgated.

