



BREVARD PLANT



# FOTOFAX



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## The Trend . . . Environmental Protection

The national trend is toward improved protection of our natural environment. "Stop Pollution" is the watchword. We see evidence of this in newspaper headlines, grade school textbooks, and new anti-pollution laws.

The reason for this emphasis? . . . The problems of earth, air, and water pollution have become increasingly serious due to more and more people generating more and more substances to contaminate the natural environment.

Refuse, smoke, and sewage have reached a saturation point in many population centers. The stench and unsightliness has started to backfire. The effect is on many people, not just some. They're tired of seeing it, breathing it, and tasting it.

As a result of this situation, local, state, and national governments have been asked to set down rules and pass laws to control it. They have responded to this request.

How have these new regulations affected industry and cities? How have they affected individuals such as you and me? How have they affected Du Pont?

### *Effect On Industry And Cities*

Industry and cities have been asked to "stop smoking". In fact, they've been told if they don't control the amount of harmful substances such as SO<sub>2</sub> (sulfur dioxide) or visible particulates (smoke-like particles),

emitted, they are subject to a \$25,000 per day fine on the first offense. This goes up to \$50,000 per day on the second.

Water going into industrial plants to help perform process functions must eventually come out into a natural stream or river. When it does, it can't be too warm, have too little dissolved oxygen, or contain substances harmful to aquatic life. The same is true for city sewage. Tight controls have been placed on wastewater treatment to only allow discharge of acceptable effluent (wastewater outflow).

When the industrial or municipal waste can gets full, it must be emptied . . . somewhere. That "somewhere" must now be below ground level in a "sanitary landfill" where no open burning is permitted. Burning can be used for trash disposal but only in high temperature incinerators where decomposition approaches 100 per cent.

Strict enforcement of these requirements can have crippling effects.

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## Rich Okie Tells About Environmental Control

Rich Okie, Brevard Plant Environmental Control Engineer, works full time keeping one eye on the plant and the other on the immediate environment. His job is to hold the processes of man and nature in harmony with one another as economically as possible.

To do this, he maintains a close tab on 12 million gallons of waste treatment water. This plant liquid waste is filtered, aerated, and impounded so effluent entering the Little River is at an acceptable quality level.

He also coordinates registration and approval of any plant emissions to the atmosphere and the landfill for solid wastes as well as the waste water system.

According to Rich, there are certain considerations we should keep in mind under an overall program of environmental control. He said, "First, environmental control is necessary. It affects the way we live. Second, the cost is high and in industry it's an investment usually without any profit return. Some firms will find the cost too high and go out of business. Jobs will be lost."

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*Eyeing the Environment*