centralized treatment facilities would no longer experience inhibition from these sources.

## B. The Centralized Waste Treatment Industry

The adoption of the increased pollution control measures required by CWA and RCRA requirements had a number of ancillary effects, one of which has been the formation and development of a waste treatment industry. Several factors have contributed to the growth of this industry. Thus, for example, in order to comply with CWA discharge limits, categorical industries have installed new (or upgraded existing) wastewater treatment facilities in order to treat their process wastewater. But the wastewater treatment may produce a residual sludge which itself may require further treatment before disposal under EPA RCRA requirements. Furthermore, many industrial process by-products now are either RCRA listed or characteristic hazardous wastes which require special handling or treatment before disposal.

A manufacturing facility's options for managing these wastes include on-site treatment with its other wastes or sending them off-site. Because a large number of operations have chosen to send their wastes off-site, specialized facilities have developed whose sole commercial operations are the handling of wastewater treatment residuals and industrial process by-products. Moreover, some industrial operations also have chosen to accept wastes from off-site for treatment in their on-site facilities. Further, there are some commercial facilities to which wastes are piped for treatment. Other wastes go to landfills or incinerators for disposal.

The waste treatment industry includes facilities which receive both hazardous and non-hazardous industrial waste. These facilities receive a variety of wastes for treatment and recovery of waste components. Among these wastes are wastewater treatment sludges, process residuals, tank bottoms, off-spec products, and wastes generated from clean-up activities. Some facilities may also treat industrial process wastewater with these wastes.

In the early 1990's, this industry experienced a slow down because many existing facilities were designed to handle larger quantities than the market produced. Reduced economic activity generally in combination with pollution prevention measures resulted in a decrease in the amount of waste sent off-site for treatment. As a result, competition among facilities increased resulting in facilities operating below capacity and experiencing economic

and financial difficulties. This may be changing at the present. Recently, participants in the March 1994 public meeting for this proposal stated that the industry is experiencing new growth due to increasing environmental regulations. The Agency solicits information and data on the current size of the industry and trends related to the growth or decline in need for the services provided by these facilities.

## C. Scope

Today's proposal would establish discharge limitations and standards for discharges from those facilities which the rule defines as "centralized waste treatment facilities." The facilities which are covered by this guideline include stand-alone waste treatment and recovery facilities which treat waste received from off-site. "Centralized waste treatment facilities" also include treatment systems which treat on-site generated process wastewater with wastes received from off-site. However, the rule does not apply to facilities which receive wastes from off-site by pipeline from the original source of waste generation.

Centralized waste treatment facilities include the following: (1) Commercial facilities that accept waste from off-site for treatment from facilities not under the same ownership as the treating facility; (2) non-commercial facilities that accept waste from off-site for treatment only from facilities under the same ownership (intra-company transfer); or (3) mixed commercial/non-commercial facilities that accept some waste from off-site for treatment from facilities not under the same ownership and some waste from facilities under the same ownership.

This summary section highlights the technology bases and other key aspects of the proposed rule. The technology descriptions in this section are presented in abbreviated form; more detailed descriptions are included in the Technical Development Document and Section V.E. Today's proposal presents the Agency's recommended regulatory approach as well as other options considered by EPA. The Agency's recommended approach for establishing discharge limitations is based on a detailed evaluation of the available data. As indicated below in the discussion of the specifics of the proposal, the Agency welcomes comment on all options and issues and encourages commenters to submit additional data during the comment period. Also, the Agency plans additional discussions with interested parties during the comment period to ensure that the Agency has the views of all parties and the best possible

data upon which to base a decision for the final regulation. EPA's final regulation may be based upon any technologies, rationale or approaches that are a logical outgrowth of this proposal and public comments, including any options considered but not selected for today's proposed regulation.

In today's notice, EPA is proposing for the Centralized Waste Treatment Point Source Category effluent limitations guidelines and standards based on BPT, BCT, BAT, NSPS, PSES, and PSNS for new and existing facilities that are engaged in the treatment of industrial waste from off-site facilities.

The proposed regulation today applies to the following activities:

- Subcategory A: Discharges from operations which treat, or treat and recover metals from, metal-bearing waste received from off-site,
- Subcategory B: Discharges from operations which treat, or treat and recover oil from, oily waste received from off-site, and
- Subcategory C: Discharges from operations which treat, or treat and recover organics from, other organic-bearing waste received from off-site.

Facilities subject to the guidelines and standards would include facilities whose exclusive operation is the treatment of off-site generated industrial waste as well as industrial or manufacturing facilities that also accept waste from off-site for centralized treatment. A further discussion of the types of waste included in each subcategory is included in the Technical Development Document and Section III.B. of this notice.

The proposed effluent limitations guidelines and standards are intended to cover wastewater discharges resulting from treatment of, or recovery of components from, hazardous and nonhazardous industrial waste received from off-site facilities by tanker truck, trailer/roll-off bins, drums, barges, or other forms of shipment. Any discharges generated from the treatment of wastes received through an open or enclosed conduit (e.g., pipeline, channels, ditches, and trenches, etc.) from the original source of waste generation are not included in the regulation. However, discharges generated from the treatment of CWT wastes received by pipeline from a facility acting as an intermediate collection point for CWT wastes received from off-site would be subject to the proposed requirements. Based on information collected in the 1991 Waste Treatment Industry Questionnaire and discussions with operators of waste treatment facilities, EPA has concluded that facilities which