



TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMS: *CONTD. FROM PAGE 21*



REHABILITATING UKRAINE'S DNIPRO RIVER: IDRC

Environmental problems in Ukraine - what immediately comes to mind is the nuclear fallout from the Chernobyl accident. While this is certainly an important and very tragic event with significant and long-lasting negative environmental and health implications, it often obscures other, equally alarming environmental problems in the country.

One of the most serious problems facing Ukraine is the contamination of the Dnipro River. This is especially significant because Ukraine has limited sources of fresh water. The third largest river in Europe, the Dnipro drains some 60% of the surface area of Ukraine. Since it supplies drinking water to about 70% of the population, the fact that nearly 20 million cubic metres of untreated effluent is dumped into the river each year poses a serious health hazard.

Thus the ecological rehabilitation of the Dnipro is of national interest. After initial missions in 1993, the Canadian government, through the Bureau of Assistance of Central and Eastern Europe, offered a five million dollar grant to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety of Ukraine for environmental activities on the Dnipro. The Office for Central and Eastern Europe Initiatives at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) was designated to develop and administer the Program of Environmental Management Development in Ukraine (EMDU).



The general objectives of the Program are:

- strengthening the capacity of Ukrainian institutions to manage the Dnipro River system, particularly water quality
- identifying means of reducing water pollution in the Dnipro River, trying appropriate methods in Zaporizhzhia region
- fostering long-term collaborative links between Canadian and Ukrainian environmental organizations, and
- encouraging the exchange of information and experience between Ukrainian scientists and policy-makers and

between these two groups and their counterparts elsewhere. The Program has two main components:

- 1) Environmental Management Capacity Building: human resource development; environmental management information system
 - policy and public education
- 2) Water Pollution Control Activities: baseline water quality study; environmental audits and green technologies
 - municipal pollution control.

MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY IN ZAPORIZHZIA

In 1993, IDRC's experts were invited to join a World Bank fact-finding mission to identify water-related problems in Ukraine. This mission found that the city of Zaporizhzhia was open to innovation and development suggestions. The city and oblast administrations and the environmental agencies in the city were responsive and promised to support future IDRC projects. Thus IDRC has been active in this city, not only working on the municipal water supply system but also on improving the existing Zaporizhzhia Ecological Centre and the regional environmental management system.

Zaporizhzhia is situated in the southern part of Ukraine and had been identified as a priority "hot spot" in Ukraine because it requires environmental improvement most urgently. With a population of some 900,000, it has an extensive and highly polluting industrial base of 1,100 industrial plants, as well as high quantities of municipal waste water. The availability of water supplies and the treatment and disposal of sewage are severe problems for the city. Vodokanal, the responsible agency, is the sole provider of municipal drinking



Water meter installation crew, Zaporizhzhia