

AREAWIDE TOTAL POLLUTANT LOAD CONTROL

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The Water Pollution Control Law and the related legislation were amended in 1978 to implement a system of Areawide Total Pollutant Load Control System for such large enclosed water bodies. The system is being applied to some large watersheds for which current concentration-based effluent standards, including prefectural stringent effluent standards, were not enough to attain the Environmental Quality Standards in terms of COD. Tokyo Bay, Ise Bay and the Seto Inland Sea have been designated as such specified water areas.

The Minister of the Environment sets every 5 years both the pollutant load reduction target volume in terms of COD for each specified water area and the target year by which these targets are to be met. Following the promulgation of these goals, the relevant prefectural governors determine the pollutant load levels for each prefectural water area and formulate program to achieve those levels. The total pollutant load regulation standards which apply to industries discharging 50m³ of effluent or more are at the core of efforts to reduce pollutant loads under this system.

The first four stages of Total Pollutant Load Control applied until the ends of fiscal years 1984, 1989, 1994 and 1999.

Based on the fact that Minister of the Environment asked the Central Environment Council in February 2000 to start deliberation on appropriate policy of the fifth stage of the Total Pollutant Load Control Program, studies are presently progressed to implement the fifth stage of the Total Pollutant Load Control Program with the deadline of fiscal year 2004.