

**POTENTIAL USE OF NATURAL SYSTEMS FOR TREATING MUNICIPAL
EFFLUENTS IN GREECE**

M.A. ECONOMOPOULOU¹ and A.P. ECONOMOPOULOS²

*¹Ph.D. Candidate, Environmental Engineering Dept.,
Democritus University of Thrace, Xanthi 671 00, Greece*

*²Professor, Environmental Engineering Dept., Technical University of Crete,
Chania, 731 00, Greece*

ABSTRACT

The minimum municipal wastewater treatment requirements are defined to a large extent by the EU directive 91/271 as a function of the population and the nature of the liquid receiver, as well as by the 1989 WHO guidelines for irrigation. The above are used in conjunction with urban population distribution data for assessing the required number of municipal wastewater treatment installations by the year 2005. The conclusion is that to existing number of 270 installations an almost equal number of new, small ones, needs be added. For the latter, the use of natural systems presents clear environmental, economic and operational reliability advantages.