

## Book Reviews

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*Industrial and Hazardous Waste Impoundment*, by N.P. Cheremisinoff, P.N.

Cheremisinoff, F. Ellerbusch and A.J. Perna, Ann Arbor Science Publishing Inc., Ann Arbor, MI, 1979, \$39.95, the Butterworth Group, U.K. £21.70, 488 pp.

The advertisement for this book states: "The book is a complete overview of the management of hazardous waste impoundment with particular attention to state and federal regulation roles. It should serve as an authoritative guide for the disposal of toxic and hazardous materials. Covers the environmental impact of impoundment operation and is supported by an extensive and complete reference list."

As advertised, the book does cover very well the regulatory aspects of hazardous material disposal in the U.S.A. in Chapters 3 (Federal) and 4 (States). Indeed, in Chapter 4, the authors devote 15 pages to a detailed outline of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. I cannot disagree with the 15 pages of detail, but was amazed to find the last 110 pages of the book devoted to photo-reproductions of the act itself (plus some Federal Register position statements). In the days of high publishing costs, I was astounded by the reprinting of this material — it is just not needed and the pages taken could have been more profitably used.

In Chapter 1, the book gives real promise of being very useful. This chapter is an excellent overview of the hazardous waste problem, including source and amounts of waste, federal protocol for handling, and treatment and disposal.

Chapter 2, entitled "Environmental Impact of Impoundment Operation", deals briefly with the protection of ground and drinking water, land disposal of solid waste and incineration. Unfortunately, each topic is treated so succinctly as to be simplistic in nature and the only detail — a literature search — is simply a report of numerous literature articles with a sentence or so on each and little or no analysis.

One of the most important but little known aspects of RCRA is a requirement for spill prevention, response and cleanup. The topic is briefly, but again inadequately, covered in Chapter 6. Indeed, what material is presented deals with hazardous chemicals in general and not hazardous waste specifically. References given were to the 1974 Hazardous Materials Spills Conference (even though the two succeeding conferences in 1976 and 1978 were in print before the book and the NFPA guide cited has little relevance to hazardous waste spills, although it is quite relevant to hazardous materials).

Other chapters deal with siting (#7), transportation and disposal (#5), impoundment facilities and liners (#6), operations (#10) and analysis (#11).

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