

Not only are these extremely useful books, they are available at a very moderate price. No hazardous material library should be without them.

GARY F BENNETT

Industrial Solid Wastes, by N L. Nemerow, Ballinger Publishing Company, Cambridge, MA, 1984, 384 pages, \$45 00

When I picked up this book, it was with great expectations that I would be diving into a solid volume on industrial wastes in general and hazardous wastes in particular. Unfortunately, I was greatly disappointed. The book should more appropriately be labelled "Solid Wastes", for it is not until the 15th chapter, the author really gets into the industrial waste area, although he does discuss the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and what makes waste hazardous before that. However, I found both of the prior discussions sterile and lacking in substance, they cover the law as passed, but contain very little of its recent applications by the U S Environmental Protection Agency. At the very least the status and regulations applying to generators, transporters, treaters and disposers should have been discussed.

One aspect I even found disconcerting in the earlier chapters on solid waste was a tendency of the author to cite local newspapers as informational sources, personally, I prefer the scientific literature as being more authoritative and accessible.

I did find the latter half of the book more useful. Nemerow utilized a technique he has used in other texts, i.e., a discussion of the problem of hazardous waste, industry by industry. And in that context, he does discuss a secure landfill as a means of disposing of hazardous wastes — but detoxification and incineration as they pertain directly to hazardous wastes are not discussed, they should have been, as they are important topics, each deserving a chapter by itself.

To a large extent, the book deals with solid residential and commercial waste. And in that context, there is much good material. Additionally, as I stated, the information reported industry-by-industry is also excellent. But, it is in the area of hazardous wastes, the book falls down — what there is good, unfortunately, there is just not enough.

GARY F BENNETT