

*Waste Minimization Manual*, published by Government Institutes, Inc., Rockville, MD, 1983, ISBN No. 0-86587-731-9, 181 pp., US\$54.00.

The book is a continuation of a Government Institutes service (which I hope will continue) of publishing proceedings of their conferences on hazardous waste minimization. This volume contains 14 papers divided along the following lines:

- Economics and Regulation – 4 papers
- Audits and Implementation – 2 papers
- Recycling – 2 papers
- Volume Reduction – 1 paper
- Industrial Experience – 5 papers

The latter category (industrial experience) contains reports by four chemical firms and one Government Agency (Dow, Chevron, DuPont, Hewlett Packard and the U.S. Navy) with waste minimization programs. Together the reports give an excellent picture of waste minimization programs in major corporations and one branch of the military.

Although much progress has been made towards waste reduction, there is still room for improvement, but not as much (I feel) as the potential of 50% reduction one of the writers believes is possible. Based on my own informal survey, I believe most experts feel 25% is the upper limit of the hazardous waste stream that can be reduced by the minimization process. One comment I quickly identified with was by Russell Susag of 3M Corporation regarding the future need for landfills. He said:

“The fact that treatment methods generate hazardous wastes and although it reduces the volume of waste to be handled, recycling tends to produce concentrated sludges of hazardous substances. These hazardous residues must be disposed of somewhere, and land disposal facilities for them will be necessary well into the future”.

And on the problem of siting, Susag says:

“So, there is a problem. And industry can't solve it alone because industry needs local land-fill use authority to site and build hazardous waste landfills”.

Overall, there are much useful data in the report. I wish, however, the book had been typeset or all the authors had used laser printers as the basis for the photoreproduced manuscript. The process would really improve the appearance of the book and the physical appearance of the papers.

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