

Two long appendices are included that will allow one to more effectively seek out the chemical of interest:

- (a) Appendices A — Synonyms.
- (b) CAS — access number to different chemicals.

GARY F. BENNETT

Used Oil: Disposal Options, Management Practice and Potential Liability, J.J. Nolan, C. Harris and P.O. Cavanaugh, Government Institutes, Rockville, MD, 1988, ISBN 0-86587-744-0, 145 pp., US \$39.

The concluding page of this well-written and comprehensive book (whose contents are nicely described by the title) notes the following:

“It is apparent from even a brief overview of this book that the used oil recycling system in the United States is in a state of transition, primarily because Congress and the (US) EPA have, since 1980, focused their attention on issues of environmental liability and management standards for used oil recycling. Despite the enactment of several statutory provisions directly affecting used oil — and the promulgation by (the US) of regulations governing used oil as fuel — the future use of oil remains uncertain. The controversies, whether recycled oil should be listed as a hazardous waste under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, is presently before the U.S. Court of Appeals from the District of Columbia Circuit”.

Meanwhile, the wide net of liability is being spread for used oil generators in several impending enforcement actions under the Superfund statutes and environmental laws. Regardless of the outcome of used oil liability in these cases, it is certain the transaction costs (lawyer's fees) that will be incurred in preparing and defending such suits will be significant. To avoid future liability, used oil generators should consider a comprehensive evaluation of their management's practice and undertake preventative measures to reduce their exposure and liability. And a good way to do this is to thoroughly read this short, but excellent treatise on the topic. The authors have successfully reviewed the history of used oil regulations and its generation, disposal and treatment. Included also is a sobering chapter on the generator's liability (or potential liability) under CERCLA. After reading that, one is encouraged to reuse and recycle but not dispose of oil.

GARY F. BENNETT

Handbook of Hazardous Waste Management, R.W. Phifer and W.R. McTigue, Jr., Lewis Publishers, Chelsea, MI, 1988, ISBN No. 0-87371-102-5, 284 pp., US \$39.95.

There are few less complicated laws (and the regulations associated with them) than the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 and the 1984

Amendments. And there are few more pervasive laws that have “reached out to touch someone” — RCRA has undoubtedly affected more businesses in the United States than any other environmental law. The change in waste management practices it has caused and the costs are almost staggering in their pervasiveness and magnitude.

But up to 1986, only large businesses (those operations generating more than 1000 kg of hazardous waste per month) were affected. Then the law decreased the regulatory level to 100 kg/month and an enormous number of small businesses had to comply with RCRA regulations. It is unfortunate that this excellent book was not published that year because it would have been a valuable aid to those newly “touched” businesses.

The publisher’s news release calls this a “practical, how- to instruction book”. Indeed, it is. The authors begin at the beginning, assuming the reader knows very little about hazardous waste (or the basis for its regulation) and lay out the law and the program needed to comply with these regulations. The book is well written, easy to read, logical and comprehensive, with guidance on how to comply with the law and the advice on how to keep out of trouble (by conducting environmental audits).

The chapter titles are:

- Regulations
- Type of Waste
- Generator Requirements
- Using CFR 40 and 49 — the law as published
- On-site storage and handling of hazardous waste
- Limiting liability
- Enforcement
- Laboratory Waste Management
- Disposal Options
- Treatment — Hazardous Waste Management

Eleven appendices appropriately and conveniently provide information to select federal regulations governing waste management.

As usual, I did find some minor aspects to criticize:

- Reprints of forms, check lists, etc., these materials have been photoreproduced and reduced in size much too much; they are difficult to read.
- The book is not well referenced to the scientific literature. I realize most small quality generators would not use the references but I believe they would have been useful to include.
- No costs are given; costs, I realize, are escalating daily and go out of date quickly, but some idea of collection, handling, overpacking and disposal costs at a point in time would have been useful.
- Waste minimization was mentioned several times (and treated well but briefly) but perhaps more emphasis could have been given to it by writing a complete chapter on the topic.

But put those comments aside. This is a good book and though late for those “already touched”, it will be helpful to those already complying with RCRA regulations — and especially useful to new generators who have not yet entered the hazardous waste generation and control field.

GARY F. BENNETT

Water Law, 2nd ed., by William Goldfarb, Lewis Publishers, Chelsea, MI, 1988, ISBN 0-87371-111-4, 284 pp., US\$ 44.95

There is probably no topic more difficult or more boring to an engineer than environmental law – but there is no topic more important. I constantly find myself in the company of an attorney explaining to him the scientific aspects of some environmental problem and, in return, hearing from him about the legal ramifications of the same problem. It is a good and most necessary symbiotic relationship.

That is why the book of Goldfarb is so welcome. Dr. Goldfarb is Professor of Environmental Law at Rutgers University, and in addition to being a law school graduate, he has a doctorate in English, as the quality of the writing in the book demonstrates.

The book begins with an introduction covering: (1) the meaning of law, (2) law and science, (3) uses of water, (4) water resources management and (5) what is water law, and what are water rights. Following the introduction, there are 41 chapters divided into the following major sections:

- (1) Law of Water Diversion and Distribution
- (2) Water Resources Development and Protection
- (3) Nontransformational Uses and Uses that do not Change the Waterbody
- (4) Water Treatment and Land Use

The first three above areas deal mainly with water resources. The last area, wastewater treatment, contained material of major interest to me.

Just over 100 pages were devoted to the Clean Water Act, Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment, Oil and Hazardous Spills, etc. These are areas of major interest for industrial pollution (environmental) control engineers. The book deals only with United States Law, so it will have limited use outside the country.

GARY F. BENNETT

Learning from Accidents in Industry, by T. Kletz, Butterworth, London, 1988, ISBN 0-408-02696-0, 158 pp., US\$ 29.95.

The author reviews many of the major plant accidents of the past 20 years; including, Flixborough, Seveso, Bhopal, Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, and Aberfan. His description of the events leading to the accident and analysis of