

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

the aftermath are well written. He has a series of one-liners that I would categorize as classics; including:

“They did not know what they did not know”.

“A plant cannot be managed from an office”.

“What you don’t have, can’t leak”.

As we go full steam into an era of plant consolidations, mergers, take-overs, etc., we need to be cognizant of the author’s tip, “It is important to be clear as to who is responsible for safety in design and operation”. In connection with the Three Mile Island incident, the author says, “Designers should have to demonstrate that their designs are safe, not just follow the rules”, and “Whenever possible we should design plants that are inherently safe, rather than plants which are made safe by adding on protective equipment”. *Sage advice!*

In discussing the Aberfan accident which occurred in 1966, he states, “Aberfan shows very clearly that we should learn from all accidents, those that could have caused death or injury, as well as those that did, and that a conscious management effort is needed to make sure that the lessons of the past are not forgotten”. I especially enjoyed reading the author’s chapter entitled, *Three Weeks in a Works*. This was an investigation of all the accidents (36 in number) that occurred over a three week period of time, even though some were very minor. The author concluded that, “there is much more to be learnt from accidents than we usually learn”.

If this book were available in paperback, it would be ideal for a senior engineering course on process safety (too expensive in hardback). Certainly every plant library or reading room ought to have a copy, because of its historical value.

LESLIE E. LAHTI

*How to Respond to Hazardous Chemical Spills* by W. Unterberg, R.W. Melvold, S.L. Davis, E.J. Stephens and F.G. Bush, III, Noyes Data Corp. Park Ridge, NJ, 1988, ISBN 0-8155-1176-0, 274 pp, US\$ 39.00.

This book is a reference manual of the countermeasures designed to assist responders to spills of hazardous substances. The book begins with two short introductory sections dealing with how to use the manual and how to assess spill situations.

Using the techniques described in Chapter 2 and the Situation Assessment Flow Charts and the Site Assessment Checklist which accompanies it, the responder should be able to identify the chemical involved in the spill. Unfortunately, the photoreproduction of the flowchart is not good and the size of the chart is so small it is hardly distinguishable.

The list of chemicals in Chapter 3 contains 700 hazardous substances designated by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and