

Book Reviews

Radon and the Environment, by William J. Makofske and Michael R. Edelstein (Eds.) Noyes Publications, Park Ridge, NJ, 1988, ISBN 0-8155-1161-2, 465 pp., \$39.00.

The book is an attempt to document all the papers presented at a conference held at Ramapo College of New Jersey in 1986. The information in the book is of historical value. The field of radon is rapidly developing and, therefore, the readers should consult current literature for revised data.

The book is divided into eight sections: (1) Introduction, (2) The geographic distribution of radon, (3) Transmission and mitigation of radon, (4) Testing and measurement, (5) Radon and health, (6) Perception of risk, and psychosocial impacts of radon exposure, (7) Socioeconomic impacts of the radon issue, and (8) The role of government in responding to radon gas exposure. Each section in the book includes a summary of the papers presented during the session. The papers are short and well written. I read most of them and enjoyed reading the material in each paper. The book includes three helpful appendices for a beginner in the field. Appendix-1 contains a glossary of technical terms and Appendix-2 is a list of references on radon. The addresses for state radiological health program contacts are given in Appendix-3.

The editors have done a good job in presenting all the papers in the same format and including the answers to questions asked during each session. Additional papers which were not presented at the conference are included in order to make the coverage of the subject more comprehensive. The book is recommended to environmental scientists as a reference for general information on radon.

ASHOK KUMAR

Spill Reporting Procedures Guide, by J.E. Leemann, BNA Books, Edison, NJ, 1989, ISBN 0-8719-609-0, 400 pp., \$140.00.

A spill or unintentional release into the environment normally requires the spiller to report that release to one or more government agencies. The reporting requirement depends on what, how much and where the material was spilled. This guide was developed to assist industry in meeting those requirements.

The *Spill Reporting Procedures Guide* is divided into two major sections: Federal Reporting Requirements and State Reporting Requirements (all 50

states are included). This Guide contains both verbal and written reporting requirements for oil, hazardous substance, hazardous waste, hazardous materials, excess air emissions, wastewater excursions, underground tank leakage and SARA Title III.

The author of this guide notes that a spiller must comply with both the State and Federal reporting requirements. This book makes those requirements clear.

GARY F. BENNETT

Explosives, 3rd revised and extended edn., by Rudolf Meyer, Sponsored by WASAGCHEME - Essen/Germany, Published by VCH Verlagsgesellschaft, Weinheim (Germany) and VCH Publishers, New York, NY, 1987. ISBN 3-527-26599-6 (German) and ISBN 0-895753-600-4 (English), 452 pages, price not available.

This is a concise handbook covering the entire field of explosives, including the replacement of the "classical" nitroglycerine-nitroglycol-based gelatines by emulsion slurries. New values have been calculated for the heat of explosion of explosives, and previous editions are brought up-to-date.

The volume is truly a quick-reference, in alphabetical order (from Abel Test to zweibasige Pulver, or double-base propellants) and includes many tables and references. Where indicated, German, French and English names are side-by-side. The literature section is 9 pages, but includes major references from a wide variety of sources. The index is especially thorough, consisting of 38 pages. Fundamental terms are given in six languages in the front of the book, and an excellent conversion study of European vs. English/American measurements is included in the rear folds. Any library or research workers who wants authoritative data quickly will find this book most valuable where explosives or propellants are involved.

HOWARD H. FAWCETT

Encyclopedia of Environmental Control Technology: Vol. 1. Thermal Treatment of Hazardous Wastes, by P.N. Cheremisinoff (Ed.), Gulf Publishing Co., Houston, TX, 1988, ISBN 0-87201-241-7, 827 pp., \$135.

This book is the first of eight planned volumes in a series dealing with all aspects of environmental control.

This first volume is advertised as dealing with the thermal destruction of