

material is, but I am an editor and am cognizant of good writing practice. Unfortunately, I find the book is not well written. The author switches topics in main stream, uses non-descriptive headings for some chapters and gives incomplete references (including references to his own unpublished lecture notes, which are a non-reference). Those problems, coupled with a lack of good introduction to several chapters and not moving from the general to the specific, made me wish a good technical editor had gone over the book before publication.

GARY F. BENNETT

Sara Title III Law and Regulations: A Handbook Covering the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, by J.G. Arbuckle, T.A. Vanderver, Jr. and P.J. Wilson, Jr., Government Institutes Inc., Rockville, MD, 3rd edn., 1989, ISBN No. 0-86487-760-2, 305 pp., \$59.

In the prologue to this most excellent book, the authors write:

“Two years have passed since President Reagan signed into law the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1989: During that time, the (U.S.) Environmental Protection Agency has promulgated regulations necessary to implement the reporting mandates of the statutes at the same time the industries covered by the Act have had to confront, at least once, each of the reporting obligations of the act.”

The obligations require reporting of the usage and/or storage of a broad list of the hazardous materials (chemicals) that could cause harmful health effects if released accidentally. Another reporting requirement for each industry is to calculate and report the amounts of annual releases of another list of potentially toxic chemicals. Thus the act addresses (and requires reports on): (1) acute releases and (2) chronic releases of chemicals.

The latter reports of (cumulative summation of) nationwide amounts of chronic releases of toxic chemicals have just reached the popular media in the United States. The numbers are big: 2.4 billion pounds of toxic chemicals are emitted annually by industries in the United States. And the public (media) response is as expected: a call for laws to reduce those chemical emission rates.

This book, like the great majority of Government Institutes publications I have read, concisely and thoroughly, but best of all “understandingly”, sets out the elements of the law described in the title of the book. But more importantly, the authors tell how to comply with the law.

In that context, I would like to commend Government Institutes, through the medium of this review, for publishing the most useful and most used books on my bookshelves. Being, as I am, vice-chairman of our county’s local Emergency Planning Committee, I often turn to this book (and other Government Institute’s publications) for information.

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