

Preface

The Gulf Coast Hazardous Substance Research Center (GCHSRC) was created by Section 118(1) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) for the purpose of "conducting research to aid in more effective hazardous substance response and waste management throughout the Gulf Coast". For each of Fiscal Years FY89 and FY90 \$1.5 million was appropriated for GCHSRC and in FY91 \$2.5 million as part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funding bill. Texas Senate Bill 39 (70th Session) created a parallel state organization for the four Texas universities in the consortium. For the 1988-1989 and the 1990-1991 biennium a total of \$2.4 million (\$600,000 per year) was appropriated for the Texas Center by the Texas legislature. Funding for the 1992-1993 biennium is under consideration at this time.

The consortium universities are Louisiana State University, Mississippi State University, Texas A & M University/TEES, The University of Alabama, University of Central Florida, University of Houston, University of Texas - Austin, and Lamar University.

The Center's effort is concentrated in the areas of waste minimization and alternate technology development. This activity includes, in the broadest definition, process modifications, process engineering, and recycle reuse approaches. The technology program includes a number of projects on various aspects of biological treatment as well as a multiuniversity interdisciplinary effort on understanding the mechanisms of solidification/stabilization. A small portion of the program is devoted to an effort to support and enhance the application of technology. This activity is presently in the areas of geology, sociology, and microbiology.

The research is done by the faculties of the member universities on their campus. Proposals for research projects within the framework of the Center's program are submitted by faculty members for review by the Science and Industry Advisory Committees. These committees advise the Center Director on the technical and scientific quality of the proposals and assist him in selecting the projects which will make up the program.

At this time the Center has some 60 projects in a joint federal, state, industry effort at the Texas Universities and a federal, industry supported research activity outside the state.

Each year during February as a part of its technology transfer program GCHSRC hosts, with the sponsorship of Texaco Research, one of the Center's Industrial Associates, a symposium on a subject which is of major importance in the hazardous waste management field and which is within the research mandate of the Center. The 1989 subject was incineration with particular emphasis on trial burns, instrumentation and operations, while the 1990 meeting discussed Solidification/Stabilization — Mechanisms and Applications. In-

cluded as a major part of the symposium is a poster session presenting all the research in progress within GCHSRC.

These Proceedings are the papers and summaries of the posters that have been presented at Gulf Coast Hazardous Substance Research Center's 1991 symposium on Bioremediation — Fundamentals and Effective Applications.

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