

tent of risks from chemical exposure, and the pressures exerted by various political agencies and special interest groups.

More research and better technical information about science-intensive policy decisions seem to raise more questions than they answer and to increase both the disagreement among experts and the polarization of the public policy debate. The authors approach this issue by undertaking in-depth case studies of formaldehyde and benzene, tracing the regulatory histories of these two chemicals. Though the particular examples are chemical-specific, many of the lessons learned from the environmental regulatory process involving these two chemicals can be applied more broadly to the general setting of environmental policy and the entire question of scientific "evidence" as it applies to the policy-making process.

One of the most important points the authors make is that regulators, scientists, interest groups, judges, journalists, and ordinary citizens can benefit from a more realistic and honest view of the ability of science and scientists to resolve disputes about chemical carcinogens. The authors posit as a solution their "neoseparationist" view, that only by recognizing the limited role of science as a resolver of conflict can the conflict between scientific evidence and policy decisions be addressed explicitly and democratically.

This book is of manageable length and is well-referenced and well-written, without the unexplained jargon replete in many books dealing with risk and regulatory policy. The socially and scientifically relevant topic should appeal to those involved with the regulatory process on many levels, whether scientist, policy-maker or concerned citizen.

BONNIE P. BLAYLOCK and CURTIS C. TRAVIS

Toil and Toxics: Workplace Struggles and Political Strategies for Occupational Health, by James C. Robinson, University of California Press, Berkeley, CA, 1991, ISBN 0-520-07164-6, 246 pp., \$29.95.

Toil and Toxics is an in-depth examination of workplace hazards and the political options available to both workers and management concerned with occupational safety and health. Providing a historical, economic and political analysis of worker efforts to control workplace hazards, Robinson tells us which strategies have been effective in the past and which hold the most promise for the future.

The author uses statistical data on workers, firms, labor unions, and working conditions spanning a thirty-year period to address issues critical to achieving and maintaining safety in the workplace. In the beginning chapters, he discusses the effects of health and safety risks on quit rates and layoff rates, unionization, strikes and labor productivity. In addition, Robinson demon-

strates a pattern of racial segregation in hazardous industries, with minorities receiving the burden of occupational injury and illness. The book's emphasis then shifts from the private to the public arena, using materials on grass-roots movements, state and national legislation, judicial interpretations, and activities of regulatory agencies to document the legal and political struggles over the right to know, the right to act, and the direct regulation of toxic substances.

The framework around which the book is built is a four-part classification matrix consisting of exit, voice, legal and regulatory strategies for controlling occupational hazards. The exit strategy deals with job shopping and quitting in the labor market; the voice strategy encompasses collective action or responses to dissatisfaction in the private workplace; the legal strategy is the pursuit of judicial guarantees for workers' rights, and the regulatory strategy embodies the direct regulation of workplace hazards by governmental agencies such as OSHA. Robinson evaluates each alternative in terms of the economic costs it poses and on its compatibility with philosophical values concerning the appropriate distribution of risks and the mechanisms for controlling risks.

Toil and Toxics is written in a non-technical and conversational style and is of manageable length. The subject of safety and health in the workplace is socially and scientifically relevant and should appeal to public health professionals, workers and management concerned with the threats posed by toxic substances and hazardous occupational conditions.

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Environmental Science—Sustaining the Earth 3rd edn., by G. Tyler Miller, Jr., Published by Wadsworth Publishing Co., Belmont, CA, a Division of Wadsworth-Brooks-Cole, 7625 Empire Drive, Florence, KY 41042, 1990, ISBN 0-534-13458-0, 465 pp. plus 25 pp. index, \$48.75 (plus postage; additional copies for schools at discount).

This volume is designed to be used in introductory courses on environmental science. The approach is relatively low-key, but very factual, and accompanied by excellent photos, maps, diagrams and other aids. The text is divided into five parts: Part One, Humans and Nature, an Overview; Part Two, Basic Concepts on Ecosystems and the relations to humans; Part Three, Air, Water and Soil Resources (including global warming, ozone depletion, water pollution and hazardous waste); Part Four, Living Resources (including food resources, pesticides and pest control, land resources, wild plants and animal resources); and Part Five, Energy and Mineral Resources (stressing that some energy resources are renewable and some nonrenewable), and nonrenewable mineral resources and solid waste roles, including disposal, recycling and landfills, as well as an appendix of environmental organizations and government agencies.