

Book Reviews

Significance and Treatment of Volatile Organic Compounds in Water Supplies, by N.M. Ram, R.F. Christman and K.P. Cantor (Eds.), Lewis Publishers, Chelsea, MI, ISBN 0-87371-123-8, 558 pp., \$75.00 hb

This book is a collection of issues relevant to the presence and treatment of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in water supplies. The volume covers a wide range of topics concerning VOCs, including regulatory background, methods of aqueous analysis, national occurrence, fate and transport, treatment, and toxicological and risk assessment information.

The volume begins with a brief yet informative summary of the VOC regulatory background. Particularly interesting in this section is the straightforward description, with examples, of the process by which maximum contaminant level goals (MCLGs) and maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) are established. Replete with technical detail, the following section describes current VOC sampling methods, including the principles of static headspace, purge and trap, closed loop stripping, liquid-liquid extraction, and others. Later chapters explore the occurrence and transport of VOCs both as immiscible fluids and as aqueous constituents, the fate of VOCs using the fugacity approach, and various methods of treating VOCs in water supplies. The final section of the book describes the assessment of risk from VOCs in water supplies. Included are descriptions of epidemiological evidence of VOC carcinogenicity, summaries of the toxic properties of the most common VOCs, and aspects of human exposure to aqueous VOCs. In addition, the authors discuss at length EPA's VOC health advisories and other pertinent standards promulgated by the EPA.

The predominantly technical nature of this book will provide the interested specialist with both theoretical background and numerical examples pertinent to a wide range of useful topics. The book is a well-referenced and interesting compilation of selected issues related to VOCs in the water supply.

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Spill Reporting Procedures Guide (7th edition), by R.E. Abbott and J.E. Lee-mann, Bureau of Natural Affairs, Washington, DC, 1990, ISBN 0-87179-679-1, \$150.00.

A spill of a chemical hazardous waste or unintentional release into the environment invariably gives rise to a variety of reporting requirements to fed-