

Clean Air Handbook, by F. Williams Brownell and L.B. Zeugon, Government Institutes, Rockville, MD, 1991, ISBN 0-86587-239-2, 317 pp., \$74.00.

In the preface of this book the authors write:

“The Clean Air Act as amended (by the U.S. Congress) in 1990 is the most lengthy and complex environmental legislation ever enacted by Congress. From modest beginnings in 1967, the Act has grown in length to hundreds of pages of statutory requirements, implemented through thousands of pages of regulation.”

Given that to date, the mind-boggling regulations resulting from RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) have been considered the most complex U.S. environmental act, I do not look forward with anticipation to the detailed regulations that will result from this new air act. For this very reason, books such as this one are very necessary, and if published by Government Institutes are normally very good. This book is no exception.

This handbook provides an ideal starting point for understanding the complex series of regulatory requirements imposed by the 1990 Clean Air Act. The narrative begins with a review of the development of clean air laws in the United States since 1967, showing how control began with the States but gradually passed to the U.S. EPA. I found the brief (15 page) history quite interesting and an excellent summary of predecessor laws.

Next the book discusses the principles regulatory program of the new Act—non-attainment areas, mobile sources, air toxics, acid rain, permits and enforcement.

The book then moves into a detailed discussion of the elements of the Act with specific chapters devoted to

- Air quality regulations — state implementation of the NAAQS (National Ambient Air Quality Standards) and the non-attainment program of the 1990 amendments
- Control technology regulations
- Regulation by permit
- The new acid deposition control program
- Hazardous air pollutants
- Regulation of fuels, fuel additives and mobile sources
- Enforcement and judicial review
- Looking to the future implementation of the 1990 amendments,

the number of U.S. EPA deadlines (over 100), the complexity of the Act and compliance obligations make a book such as this one, a very useful starting point. The authors are to be commended for their efforts. They have produced a most useful and readable book.

GARY F. BENNETT