

Environmental Dividends; Cutting More Chemical Wastes, by M.H. Dorfman, W.R. Muir and C.G. Miller, Published by INFORM, 381 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016, 1992, 271 pages (paperback), ISBN 0-918-780-50-0, \$75.00.

This is truly an amazing volume. For decades, chemical and related companies have maintained a strict security as to their operating policies. Within the past ten years, the Freedom of Information Act, as well as the pressure from EPA and citizens, have brought the question of toxic and other undesirable wastes into the limelight.

In 1982, INFORM, an independent research organization launched a study of industrial chemical wastes with special attention to the management and disposal of wastes. In 1985, INFORM published a report, *Cutting Chemical Wastes*, with detailed plant case studies which showed the economic benefits and community benefits to improved waste management. Since then, the growing awareness and the additional regulations have changed the picture from status-quo to real action in many industries. Even 25 states, on their own, have adopted initiative in pollution control and prevention.

In the present 1992 volume, we have a detailed analysis of what 29 plants are doing as part of the move to improve the reduction, by sampling the 22,650 largest U.S. industrial facilities which released or transferred 5.7 billion pounds of 322 toxic chemicals and chemical categories into the environment in 1989, while making and using the 70,000 chemicals produced for commercial use.

The procedure used was to contact the plants directly, and, in many cases, to do plant visits, in order to see what policies were being applied, for what specific waste reduction, and what benefits were being received from these practices. A wide spectrum of both large and small plants were selected, from the East Coast to California, producing a variety of products. Among the items questioned in each plant, were the following: written source reduction policy, materials accounting, materials balance, cost accounting, type of leadership, employee involvement, specific environmental goals, and whether or not an existing environmental program includes source reduction as an integral component.

Air emissions, wastewater, and solid waste reductions were each considered separately. Process changes, operations changes, equipment changes, chemical substitutions, and product changes were the major approaches to the waste reductions. Specific details are given for each of the 29 plants included in this survey.

This report should be widely read through the chemical and allied industries and will doubtlessly be of considerable value both in dollars as well as in reducing legal liability, and increasing community respect.