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*Gaseous Pollutants: Characterization and Cycling*, edited by J.O. Nriagu, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, NY, ISBN 0-471-54898-7, 1992, 548 pp., US\$ 125

This book is the 24th in Wiley's Series in Advances in Environmental Science and Technology whose purpose (in part) is to provide scientists with a periodic overview of environmental developments. And an impressive series it is with this volume being no exception.

This book deals with the conventional and sophisticated techniques used in the sampling and analysis of gaseous contaminants in the atmosphere. The editor notes that a comprehensive coverage of the available information on all gaseous pollutants is neither possible nor intended. Rather this volume evaluates the present state of the measurement technology, provides a flavor of the current research results, and draws attention to the challenging research opportunities available in this important field of study.

A total of 11 chapters were contributed by 21 authors from 7 different countries (in North America and Europe). Each chapter is essentially a review (in depth) of the topic title. Every contribution has a mini table of contents at the beginning and an extensive bibliography at the end.

Titles of the 11 chapters are as follows:

1. Henry's law constants of soluble and moderately soluble organic gases: Effects on aqueous chemistry
2. Sampling and analysis for ambient oxides of nitrogen and its related species
3. The approach of denuder systems to the analysis of atmospheric components
4. Gas phase organics in the marine atmosphere
5. Atmospheric distribution and sources of nonmethane hydrocarbons
6. The chemistry of atmospheric hydrogen peroxide in southern California
7. Air pollution by gaseous pollutants in Athens, Greece
8. Chemical mechanisms and process parameters of flue gas cleaning by electron beam
9. Volatile organics in the indoor environment: Sources and occurrences
10. Thoron and its progeny in the atmospheric environment
11. Advanced methods for the evolution of atmospheric pollutants relevant to photochemical smog and dry acid deposition

GARY F. BENNETT

*Guide to Environmental Laws: From Premanufacture to Disposal*, by J.A. Stimson, J.J. Kimmel and S.T. Rollin, The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc., 1231 25th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20037-1165, USA, ISBN 0-87179-712-7, 1993, 338 pp., US\$ 48

This book uses a transactional approach to explain the functions and interrelationships of the environmental laws, regulations, and enforcement strategies that affect

every aspect of the US manufacturing process. The six chapters of the book coincide with the major phases of the manufacturing process:

1. Premanufacture control
2. Right-to-know requirements
3. Manufacturing control
4. Transport and identification
5. Storage
6. Disposal and cleanup

In the preface, the authors briefly (2 pp.) outline the process of (governmental) environmental control from the US EPA's creation in 1970. At present they note that the regulatory statutes passed by the US Congress fall into three broad categories:

1. Premanufacturing, and marketing control
2. Pollution control
3. Liability control

The authors followed the above format in developing their list.

I enjoyed reading the book (or at least the parts that interested me) because the authors use a narrative approach rather than being a slave to the law passed by Congress or its codification in the Federal Register. Given the limits of space they have done a reasonably good job on a very complex subject.

They however fail, at times, when they deviate from a journalistic/legal description of the law and enter the technological field. Their description is deficient at best and ludicrous at worst. I also found minor lapses in other technology descriptions such as allocating to SO<sub>x</sub> (rather than both SO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>) the blame for acid rain (really they should have said acid deposition). If they had had the book reviewed by a scientist/engineer, they could have avoided these minor problems (and they are minor because very little of the book is devoted to technology) — but that review, I am sure, would have added reams of paper, thus negatively affecting the book's 'compactness'.

Another problem in the book (indeed in all published books) is the use of outdated data. Under a discussion of EPCRA (Emergency, Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act) chemical release data for 1988 are given; yet the book was completed in 1993. In such a dynamic field as pollution control, it is difficult, if not impossible, to be current.

Readers of my reviews will know I do not like long appendices containing much supplementary detail. The book has 45 pages of appendices — but much to my liking, it contains excellent data on air quality trends, river and stream water quality and Superfund site information. Rather than wish for a shorter appendix, I would have liked more data or perhaps a list of the Superfund sites or technology being used to clean them up.

My overall assessment is a good, readable book on the topic of environmental law. I am seriously considering placing a copy on reserve in our university library and requiring the students in my environmental course to read pertinent sections.