

A total of 45 papers (41 in English and 4 in French) given at the conference have been published under the following major headings:

| <i>Topic</i> | <i>No. of Papers</i> |
|---|----------------------|
| Prevention | 10 |
| Preparedness | 8 |
| Response | 8 |
| Public awareness and communication | 3 |
| Medical, psychological and social aspects | 3 |
| Legal aspects | 5 |
| Hazardous materials management — A review of all aspects of their proper handling | 4 |
| Accidental release of air toxins — Emergency planning | 4 |

The papers were quite varied in content, detail and source. Although most of the authors were Canadian, several papers were presented by US and European personnel.

I scanned the proceedings, stopped to read in the two areas that interest me most: spill incident/response and prevention/response planning.

In the first category I read several extremely interesting papers on accounts of spills involving:

- arsenic trioxide into the ocean
- chlorosulphonic acid in a train derailment
- aromatic hydrocarbons in a train derailment
- explosion on a drilling rig

In the second category (prevention/response planning), there were several excellent planning papers dealing with:

- risk of transport of chlorine
- nuclear facility emergency planning
- municipal/industrial planning
- transboundary emergency response preparedness

As a conference volume, I'd have to give this one a passing grade. The book has been photo reproduced; each paper contains the author's name, organization in full address, and key words. My only major criticism is that the key words were not indexed.

GARY F. BENNETT

Clean Air Handbook, by F. William Brownell assisted by other members of the Law Firm of Hunton & Williams, Government Institutes, Rockwell, MD, ISBN 0-86557-343-7, 1993, 341 pp., US\$ 79.00

The preface begins with a gross understatement:

“The Clean Air Act of 1990 is the *most complex* (reviewer's emphasis added) piece of environmental legislation ever enacted. From modest beginnings in 1967, the Act has

grown in length to hundreds of pages and is implemented through thousands of pages of regulations.”

The authors begin by briefly reviewing the historical base of the Air Quality Act. Starting with its passage in 1967, they note both successes and failures of the legislation and then provide the basis for regulatory changes in subsequent years.

An intriguing title is given to Chapter 2: *The 1990 Amendments: the federal partner steps forward* — which it has done vigorously, taking more and more control since the first legislative steps in which Congress decreed: “Air pollution control is a local problem”. Early in the chapter the authors mention the need for their book by stating: “The 1990 Amendments are more lengthy and complex than any previous environmental legislation. They are also different in form and content than the changes sought by industry and environmental groups in the early 1980s.”

Major aspects of the 1990 amendments are discussed:

Title 1 the non-attainment program

Title 2 mobile sources, fuels and fuel additives

Title 3 air toxins

Title 4 acid rain

Title 5 the operating permit project

I very much enjoyed the author’s comments at the end of the chapter on *What does the future hold?* in which they traced increasing federal EPA (as opposed to state EPA) control of the air pollution program and the very difficult task the (US) EPA faces (with finite resources) in meeting the multitude of deadlines Congress imposed on them. Thus the authors conclude that the courts may, because of citizen suits against missed deadlines, have a significant role in setting EPA (time) priorities.

The next several chapters (whose titles are listed below), deal with the requirements of the law:

- Air quality regulation — state implementation and the non-attainment program
- Control technology regulation
- Preconstruction and operating permits
- The acid deposition control program
- Hazardous air pollutants
- Regulation of fuels, fuel additives, and mobile sources
- Stratospheric ozone protection

And finally the clincher: Enforcement and judicial review — i.e., enforcement with a discussion of both civil (potential for fines) and criminal (potential for jail) actions. Indeed, the potential severe penalties of the Clean Air Act — as is becoming commonplace with all US environmental laws — make reading about, and understanding of, the law critical. Thus the great importance of this text.

The book ends with a prospective chapter that attempts to look at the future. Its title, *Clean Air Act implementation* — what the future holds and its three chapters:

- EPA’s regulatory agenda
- Implications of regulatory uncertainty for industry planning and compliance
- Implication of EPA delay for the administrative process

Finally, the book ends with the following paragraph: “In sum, implementation of the Clean Air Act Amendment of 1990 will continue to present new challenges to EPA

and industry — challenges that become greater with delay in implementation of the Act. Creative procedural and substantive solutions will be needed to insure that this important environmental program achieves the goals in a prompt and effective manner.”

GARY F. BENNETT

Environmental Law Index to Chemicals, by C.C. Lee, Government Institutes, Inc., Rockwell, MD, ISBN 0-86587-338-0, 1993, 250 pp., US\$ 55.00

Lee's Preface nicely outlines the book's purpose (and contents).

“Thousands of chemicals have been regulated under many very complicated environmental laws and regulations. As the environmental regulations are constantly being changed, so are the regulated chemicals and their emission standards. It is often very difficult to determine which chemicals are regulated under which regulation and where the standards are specified. To assist in resolving these difficulties, this guide book was created.”

In Section 1, the author lists chemicals (in alphabetical order preceded by their CAS No.) followed by nine columns representing the following environmental laws: CERCLA, SARA, RCRA, CAA, TSCA, CWA, SDWA, FI(FIFRA), OSHA, and California Law. If a chemical is regulated under any one of these acts, the key to where to find it is given. Close to 4000 chemicals are found in the 168 pages devoted to this listing.

Section 2, entitled “Key to Alphabetic Listings” explains the acronyms used in the first section and for each CFR (Code of Federal Regulation) category gives a brief comment on its topic.

Section 3 lists the chemicals numerically by CAS (Chemical Abstract Service) number. For each number, the chemical name (and synonym) are given.

GARY F. BENNETT

Chemical Safety Matters. World Health Organization, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, International Programme on Chemical Safety, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, ISBN 0-521-41375-3 (paperback), 1992, 284 pp., UK£ 19.95

Chemical Safety Matters presents a concise review of the safe use and proper disposal of hazardous chemicals in laboratories. In the book, the editors have ‘summarized’ the direct and indirect hazards which are found in chemical laboratories. The editors' goal in writing the book was to encourage a thoughtful and alert approach to the safe storage, use and disposal of chemicals. The book provides valuable guidance to address the many problems that can be the result of the inappropriate handling of chemicals when ignorance and the lack of planning impair safety and/or result in environmental contamination.