

I will not take space to list all the different sessions (and certainly not all the papers) but those noted below should give potential readers a good idea of the broad (and comprehensive) coverage of the conferences.

- Health and Safety
- Case Studies
- Bioremediation
- Ordinance/Propellants/Explosives/Pyrotechnics
- Mining Wastes
- Soil Treatment
- Air Quality
- Policy Enforcement
- Landfills
- Incineration
- Soil Vapor Extraction

The papers are either photoreproduced or printed off computer discs, leading to variable print quality. There is a table of contents but neither an author nor key words index, both of which are useful.

Given the number of papers, the publication of these proceedings in such a timely fashion is almost unique in conference management. HMCRI provides a valuable service to those engineers and scientists working in the remediation field by holding these conferences and putting its proceeding out quickly (and at a very reasonable price).

GARY F. BENNETT

*Superfund Manual: Legal and Management Studies*, by R.M. Hall, Jr., R.E. Schwartz, N.S. Bryson, R.C. Davis, Jr. and B.G. Donohur, Government Institutes, Rockville, MD, 1993, 5th ed., 468 pages, price US\$ 95, ISBN 0-86587-344-5

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act or CERCLA (dubbed Superfund by the press) was passed in 1980 and amended and re-authorized by the Superfund Act Reauthorization Amendments (SARA) by 1986.

CERCLA was passed by the US Congress to address the sins of the past — contamination of the environment resulting from release of hazardous chemicals, primarily in uncontrolled hazardous waste disposal sites, but also from contaminants in industrial property, as well as actively managed facilities and vessels.

CERCLA is a demanding law imposing strict liability as well as joint and severe liability on transgressors. Lawsuits are numerous, and cleanup slow, but costly. No one is satisfied with this law as it is and it is widely expected Congress will make significant changes in it in 1994 or 1995.

The authors' purpose in writing the book was "to set forth exactly what Superfund does and requires, and to discuss how it is being implemented and its impact on

the potentially affected community. In addition, the book is designed to provide some practical thoughts on strategic issues and how to respond." A chapter which discusses state enforcement and common law liability for hazardous substances is also included.

The book has the following chapters:

1. Superfund Overview
2. Hazardous Substance Release Reporting
3. Governmental Response Authority and Duties
4. The National Contingency Plan and National Priority List
5. Liability and Enforcement
6. The Relationship between Superfund and RCRA
7. Response Strategies for Potentially Responsible Parties
8. Natural Resource Damages
9. Uses of Superfund
10. Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know
11. Role of the States Under Superfund, State Statutes and the Common Law
12. Appendix: The Law: Superfund/CERCLA (this section, the replication of the actual law itself, covers 127 pages)

This book is very well written, easy to read, and well footnoted with legal citations.

GARY F. BENNETT

*Hazardous Chemicals Handbook*, by P.A. Carson and C.J. Mumford, Butterworth Heinemann, Oxford, UK, 1994, 378 pages, price UK£ 25.00, ISBN 0-7506-0278-3

The goal of this handbook written by a UK safety manager and chemical engineering faculty member/safety and loss prevention consultant is to provide a source of rapid information to help in the safe use and disposal of chemicals.

Chemicals, the authors note, pose dangers due to their very nature: flammable, toxic, carcinogenic, corrosive, radioactive and/or reactive. The danger to personnel could be from an accident, such as an acid burn to the skin or could be chronic resulting from continual exposure to or accumulative poison. The hazards are multiple, the exposures widespread and the results potentially deadly. Hazard recognition and assessment are stressed — starting with a knowledge of the individual properties of a chemical: physical characteristics, corrosivity, flammability, reactivity, toxicity, biological properties, exposure effects and radioactivity.

Chapter 1 introduces the reader to the aforementioned needs for chemical (affect) information and overviews the material found in the rest of the book. Chapter 2 is a five-page list of terminology definitions.

Chapter 3 entitled "Physicochemistry" discusses the hazards of chemicals which can often be foreseen from a knowledge of the following physicochemical principles: vapor pressure, gas-liquid solubility, liquid-to-vapor phase change, solid-to-liquid phase change, density difference of gases and vapors, etc. A discussion of corrosion and corrosion prevention includes several excellent tables of the corrosive resistance of metals and plastic to a wide variety of chemicals.