Book reviews

A review of the chapter titles gives evidence of the book's practicality and 'how-to-do' approach: auditing, checklists, questionnaire, examples, etc. The book however, lacks reference to the literature, a feature I feel detracts markedly from its utility.

G.E. Bennett

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Proceedings of the Thirteenth Technical Seminar on Chemical Spills, Calgary, Alberta, June 1996, Environment Canada, Ottawa, Ont., Canada, 1996, 396pp.

These proceedings contain copies of 22 papers presented at this seminar; they cover a wide variety of topics. Major thrust areas at the conference were:

- 1. Countermeasures
- 2. Fate and effects
- 3. Analytical
- 4. The spill problem

Not given in sessions by themselves, but interspersed under other topics were remediation or site assessment papers found which dealt with the environmental problems of former missile sites in Latvia and the Ukraine.

Other topics that caught my attention were papers on:

- 1. Recovery of selenium from water using a membrane process
- 2. HCl spill modeling
- 3. Chlorine gas release prevention preparedness and response
- 4. Validation of the Eurospill chemical spill model (for a chemical spill onto a water body)
- 5. LPG tank failure
- 6. Recent Canadian chemical spill statistics data

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Toxics Watch 1995, Inform, Inc., New York, NY, USA, 1995, \$125.00, 773pp. ISBN: 0-918780-64-0

As one begins to read this book, the statistic that 13,000,000 chemicals have been discovered/created and of that number 72,000 are used in daily commerce catches one's attention quickly. Especially since many of these chemicals are very toxic compounds. Moreover, each year 685,000 new chemicals are identified.

Inform's concern is expressed by the following statement: "Almost none of the 72,000 chemicals in commerce in the United States have been fully characterized for their ability to cause environmental and health effects."