October 1994. Both presented papers (53 in number) and poster presentations (13 in number) having been included in these proceedings under the following major titles:

1. Spent fuel storage programmes
2. Spent fuel storage technology
3. Licensing and safety aspects of spent fuel storage

The first section (Spent fuel storage programmes) contained papers from several countries, delineating their experience with and current plans for spent fuel storage. The national experience varies with the country. Canada, which uses both wet and dry spent fuel storage techniques, claims (since this storage began in the late 1970's) that their experience is more comprehensive and of longer duration than any other similar program in the world.

Papers from the following countries were published in this section: Argentina, Belgium, Canada, India, Japan, Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, and the United States. Of the 30 countries with nuclear programs, only five (Canada, Finland, Spain Sweden and the United States) are actively pursuing direct disposal and even in those countries reprocessing after a period of time, interim storage has not been ruled out.

The second major section of the book consists of 15 papers discussing the technical details of storage systems, especially the impact of spent fuel on the integrity of storage vessels. For example, a paper out of Russia discusses the results of a corrosion investigation of fuel assemblies stored for 13 years in a water pool – there appeared to be no impact of storage on the strength and ductility of the fuel cladding. Conversely, dry vault storage experience gained in France for the design and construction of a facility for interim storage of radioactive material is discussed.

The third and final section of these proceedings contains seven papers discussing the licensing and safety aspects of spent fuel storage. Papers were supplied by Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Russia and the Ukraine.

G.F. Bennett

Establishing a National System for Radioactive Waste Management, International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna, 1995, 160.00 Austrian Schillings, 28pp., ISBN: 92-0-103495-4

The objective of these safety standards is to assist in developing a national system for radioactive waste management, to identify the key responsibilities of the parties involved and to delineate essential features of such a system. The document encompasses all aspects of radioactive waste management from waste minimization to disposal.

Experience, the standards note, shows that safe management of radioactive waste depends on:

(a) developing relevant laws and regulations and establishing or designating a regulatory body for radioactive waste management and

(b) developing the necessary operational capability.

This Safety Standard contains the following chapters:

1. Introduction
2. Objective and principles of radioactive waste management
3. National framework for radioactive waste management
4. Responsibilities associated with radioactive waste management
5. Important features of radioactive waste management

G.F. Bennett

The Principles of Radioactive Waste Management, International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna, 1995, 160.00 Austrian Schillings, 24pp, ISBN: 92-0-103595-0

The goal of this safety fundamentals guide is to complement national standards and criteria in the development of radioactive waste management programs. It encompasses all aspects of radioactive waste management from waste minimization to disposal and sets out objectives and principles for the protection of human health in the environment.

The following principles are the key to safe radioactive waste management:

1. Protection of human health
2. Protection of the environment
3. Protection beyond national borders
4. Protection of future generations
5. Burdens on future generations
6. National legal framework
7. Control of radioactive waste generation
8. Radioactive waste generation and management interdependencies
9. Safety of facilities

G.F. Bennett

Environmental Impact of Chemicals: Assessment and Control, edited by M.D. Quint, D. Taylor and R. Purchase, The Royal Society of Chemistry, Cambridge, UK, 1996, £69.50 (US$120.00), 244 pp., ISBN 0-85404-795-6

The contributions in this book are based on presentations at two symposia held in London in late 1994. The symposia were organized jointly by the Toxicology Environmental Chemistry and Chemical Information Subject Group of the Royal Society of Chemical Industry.

Following and introduction and overview of the risk assessment process (Chapter 1), the roles of toxicology and epidemiology are discussed (Chapters 2–6), with views from