Geotechnology of Waste Management, Issa S. Oweis and Raj P. Khera, PWS Publishing, Boston, MA, 1998, Second Edition, $99.95 (CDN), 472 pp., ISBN: 0-534-94524-4

The stated purpose of the authors of the book is to 'equip the student and practicing engineer with the basic knowledge needed for the geotechnical design of waste facilities, the closure and improvement of waste facilities, and construction on waste'. The book is designed to be used as a graduate course (or courses) focussed on geotechnical issues.

Not being a geotechnical engineer (not even being a Civil Engineer) I am not qualified (in the main) to comment on the technical aspects of the book. But I have taught and done many tests. From that perspective, the book is good: well-written, good lists of notation (for the equations), easy to follow explanations, numerous student problems and assignments, and copious references.

The titles of the 14 chapters are:

1. Forms of Waste
2. Index Properties
3. Clay Minerals
4. Compressibility and Settlement
5. Shear Strength
6. Hydraulic Properties
7. Site Investigation
8. Site Selection
9. Ground Modification and Compaction
10. Liners
11. Leachate Generation and Collection
12. Caps
13. Foundation and Slope Stability
14. Gas Management

My only criticism, and a minor one it is, would be a wish for a more thorough treatment of hazardous waste—its sources, characteristics and regulations controlling it. But given hazardous waste disposal is minor (in amount) compared to other waste forms (especially municipal waste), I understand the limited space given to it. Indeed, hazardous waste disposal was not the focus of this geotechnology book.

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