

- no discussion other than carbon adsorption (such as catalytic oxidation) for VOC emissions from air stripping towers;
- using too many figures, far beyond the accuracy possible, i.e., in a flow equation, utilizing 1 gpd/ft² (one significant figure) as a basis of their calculation, they arrive at a flow rate of 13,939,200 gpm for an aquifer; the latter figure purports to have a six-figure accuracy;
- describing enzymes simply as catalysts that speed up bacterial reactions whereas enzymes are essential to the biological reaction, not just catalysts
- providing only 37 references for the whole text.

Finally, at many points in the text I wanted to rewrite (or rephrase) the material. The authors could have improved the text materially by employing a technical writer. Perhaps they will do this in the next edition.

GARY F. BENNETT

PII: S0304-3894(98)00200-3

Proceedings of the Fifteenth Technical Seminar on Chemical Spills, Edmonton, Alberta, Environment Canada, Ottawa, June 1998, 234 pp.

Environment Canada, like the U.S. EPA, has had a long history of activity in regard to spills of oils and hazardous chemicals. Both again have now included contaminated sites (and their cleanup) in their program. As noted in the title of the book, this is the 15th annual seminar and the resulting proceedings thereof.

The volume has 18 papers covering a wide variety of topics contributed mainly (over one-half) by Environment Canada personnel, including M.F. Fingas, a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Journal of Hazardous Materials*, who is the author or co-author of no less than seven (7) papers.

The papers are of variable content and quality being, I believe, non-refereed prior to publication (some could have benefited from a thorough editing).

Some papers contained e-mail addresses for the authors (which I find very useful); some had only mail addresses (which I find helpful); and, unfortunately, some had no addresses at all.

As might be expected, the 18 papers span a wide variety of topics such as:

Hazardous Spill Response:

H₂SO₄ Spill

Butadiene Tanker Grounding

Computer Resources:

Chemical Compatibility

ERT Web Site Weather ID Project

Spill Model

Monitoring and Analysis:

PCBs Selenium removal

Supercritical fluid extraction

Hazardous Site Cleanup:
Missile base in Latvia

Once again, Environment Canada is to be congratulated for its timely publication of the proceedings.

GARY F. BENNETT

PII: S0304-3894(98)00199-X

Introduction to Stormwater: Concept, Purpose, Design, Bruce K. Ferguson, Wiley, New York, NY, 1998, US\$ 59.95, 255 pp., ISBN: 0-471-16528-X

Urban water quality is significantly affected by stormwater runoff. Thus the author wrote this book “... to give its users an understanding of the relationships of stormwater to the human and natural environment, recognition of the range of available management approaches and their implications for water resources and site development, and skill in applying basic quantitative methods to estimate and design for stormwater.”

In the USA, the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has mandated monitoring and control of both municipal and industrial stormwater discharges. Although not addressing those regulations directly, this book should help those who must comply with them through data (and numerous charts and graphs) on frequency and amount of precipitation events, runoff volume, monitoring, etc.

GARY F. BENNETT

PII: S0304-3894(98)00198-8

Brownfields Redevelopment: Programs and Strategies for Rehabilitating Contaminated Real Estate, Mark S. Dennison, Government Institutes, Rockville, MD, 1998, US\$79.00, 407 pp., ISBN: 0-86587-579-0

The term ‘Brownfield’ is used (in the USA) to refer to abandoned, idled or underused commercial property that has been taken out of productive use, often as a result of property abandoned by a commercial (or industrial) operation. Given the property’s potential (or real) contamination, the U.S. Government Accounting Office estimates there may be as many as 650 000 Brownfield sites in the USA.

The problem for future users of these sites is the liability posed by the contaminants, real or imagined. A buyer, unless indemnified, assumes the responsibility of cleaning up the site under CERCLA (the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act) even though he/she may not have contributed to the existing contamination on the site.

In the first chapter, the author [who is a well-published attorney] reviews the federal [EPA mainly] regulations and programs that form the regulatory framework and economic stimulation for rehabilitating a contaminated site.

State Brownfield properties are the subject of the second chapter. Over the past few years, 32 states have created programs to encourage productive reuse of abandoned, idle or underutilized sites that are ‘blacklisted’ because of their industrial history. These state