

Hazardous Site Cleanup:
Missile base in Latvia

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

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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.

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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