



Book review

Achieving Environmental Excellence: Integrating P2 and EMS to Increase Profits

Avrom Bendavid-Val, Nicholas P. Cheremisinoff (Eds.), Government Institutes, Rockville, MD, 2003, 286 pp., US\$ 79.00, ISBN: 0-86587-812-9

Pollution Prevention and Emergency Management Systems are two “very hot topics” currently. This book (as is obvious from the title) discusses both topics, their relationship and their integration. The authors express their point-of-view as follows: “Our purpose in this book is to outline an integrated EMS/P2 program and describe how it augments conventional ISO 14001-type EMSs to generate more and faster improvements in environmental performance, economic performance, and environmental risk reduction for a company. The steps for putting an EMS/P2 program in place are detailed as well as how a company, if it wishes, can satisfy the requirements for ISO 14001 certification through an integrated EMS/P2 program. Our purpose is to show how EMS and P2 can be integrated into a single EMS/P2 program that is far more powerful than a conventional EMS or P2 program alone.”

The first two chapters are introductory overviews of the two central topics, EMS and P2, while Chapter 3 provides “. . . an overview of the integrated EMS/P2 program that is the focus of the rest of this book.”

The rest of the book is described by the authors as follows: “Chapters 4 and 5 discuss Phases 1 (getting started) and 2 (pre-planning activities), respectively, of an integrated EMS/P2 program. Phase 3, planning environmental management initiatives, encompasses six types of environmental management initiatives. These are equivalents of ISO 14001’s environmental management programs, or what some other EMSs call environmental action plans, but are much broader in scope. The first five of these, dealing with environmental stakeholder engagement, environmental performance monitoring programs, environmental security and emergency preparedness, new undertakings, and non-P2 operational initiatives, are covered in Chapter 6. Chapter 7 is devoted to P2 initiatives alone because we have much new to say on this subject, especially within the context of an integrated EMS/P2 program. Chapter 8 covers Phases 4 (implementation and monitoring), and 5 (top management review and continual improvement) of the integrated EMS/P2 program.”

Given the need for detailed planning in both pollution prevention and emergency management, the appearance of this book combining planning activities for both programs is very timely.

Gary F. Bennett