

This is a fascinating book discussing, as noted above, the history of the United States' production of plutonium for the atomic bomb. Although the main focus of the book was the World War II time period, it does discuss Hanford operations up to 1990, thus covering the Manhattan Project and the Cold War. The contents of the book are as follows. Chapter 1 is a historic overview summarizing some of the events that accounted for and influenced the creation and operation of the Hanford Site as well as some of the activities undertaken on the Hanford Site in response to these events. Chapter 2 consists of 12 sections with details, descriptions, and illustrations of the primary production operations (manufacturing the fuel, irradiating it in the reactors, chemically separating it to isolate plutonium, and finishing the plutonium into the form needed for a bomb), support activities (construction, waste management, research and development, security, military operations, worker health and safety, and infrastructure, and most importantly a perspective from the workers who made it all happen. Chapter 3 is a guide to resources and information for future researchers. Ideas generated or omissions noted within this text may be investigated more fully by the interested reader using these resources. Chapter 4 looks to the future and provides recommendations for future uses for some of the facilities still standing on the Hanford Site. It envisions opportunities for economic development and heritage tourism as a way to extend vestiges of the past into the 21st century.

The book is exceedingly well-written with copious photographs, diagrams, and numerous tables and data. The appendix contains lists of key dates, figures and tables, references cited (36 pages), bibliography for further information (14 pages), glossary and a comprehensive index.

The book is published for an incomprehensibly low price of US\$ 47.50. The U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Cultural and Historical Resources Program and Battelle Press are to be commended for producing this book which should be on the shelves of all university and public libraries.

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Reinventing Water and Wastewater Systems: Global Lessons for Improving Water Management

Paul Seidenstat, David Haarmeyer, Simon Hakim (Eds.), John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, NY, 2002, 495 pp., US\$ 100.00, ISBN 0-471-06422-X

The provision of clean safe drinking water is a major worldwide challenge both in industrial as well as developing countries. At the other end of the water utilization system, the need for wastewater treatment grows in step with increases in water supply. In the past, the role of water services provider has fallen to governments. More recently, however, the private sector has undertaken a major role, both in developed and developing countries. This book discusses the challenges faced in this area and discusses lessons learned by different countries in utilizing different approaches to improving water and wastewater services.

The book's content is not technical; rather, it is economic. Two of the three editors are economists. Not surprising then is the book's focus on financing the water and wastewater infrastructure. The editors have utilized a worldwide group of specialists and published papers under the following major titles:

- Introduction
- The regulatory framework
- Financing the water and wastewater infrastructure
- Reinventing public sector operations
- Restructuring operations in selected US cities
- A view of the past and future

There are 25 chapters contributed by both engineers and economists for organizations such as the World Bank, Stone and Webster Consultants, Standard & Poors, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, etc. "Coverage by these experts includes exploring regulatory frameworks, financing the water and wastewater infrastructure, reinventing public sector operations, analyzing the past and future of the global water industry, and examining the restructuring operations in selected US cities."

Personally, I was most interested in the private sector contributions. George Day, Head of Water Resource Economics of the United Kingdom's Office of Water Services, discusses the development of competition in the water and sewerage industries in England and Wales. He discusses the benefits of privatization which he notes are increased efficiency, improvements in customer service and focus, and increased flexibility.

Other authors discuss public sector operations in Mexico (Federal District Water Reform), Manila (the largest water system privatization), and Holland (government-owned public limited companies). The US experience in restructuring operations is discussed for the cities of Seattle, Wilmington, Houston, West Haven, and Phoenix among others.

Although vigorously opposed by public service unions, privatizing municipal water and wastewater plants is slowly on the increase in the United States. This book will undoubtedly increase interest in that process.

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Site Assessment and Remediation Handbook, 2nd ed.

Martin N. Saram, Lewis Publishers' Boca Raton, FL, 2003, US\$ 159.95, 1153 pp., 8.5 × 11 inch format, ISBN 1-56670-577-0

This book was published as a resource for engineers, geologists, and hydrologists who conduct site investigations. The author states, "This book is the result of many years of trying to evaluate the physical reality of ground-water flow in geologic materials. This text concentrates on practical aspects of hydrogeology and was designed as a working tool to