

Wetlands and Remediation II: Proceedings of the Second International Conference on Wetlands and Remediation

Karl W. Nehring, Susan E. Bruning, (Eds.), Battelle Press, Columbus, OH, 2002, 75.00 (US), 386 pp. ISBN: 1-57477-122-1

Being a conventional chemical/environmental engineer, I have had little experience with natural wastewater treatment systems, having focused on conventional municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plants. However, since R.H. Kadlec and R.L. Knight published their book *Treatment in Wetlands* in 1996, I have been interested in this novel approach to wastewater renovation. Kadlec, a former classmate of mine and a chemical engineer, was a pioneer in this field. Since I knew him personally and was interested in this process, I was delighted to see this book of conference papers.

To begin the formal review, I quote from the foreword "The processes involved in wetlands remediation are numerous and, in some instances, complex". Moreover, wetlands are important and often ecologically sensitive habitats and the impact of contamination remediation activities on the resident organisms is of concern. Addressing these complex issues requires the involvement of a wide variety of disciplines and organizations. To help bring together site managers, scientists, engineers, and regulators involved in this field, the Second International Conference on Wetlands and Remediation was held in Burlington, Vermont, 5–6 September, 2001. The author of each presentation accepted for the program was invited to prepare an eight-page paper, . . . Each paper received was reviewed by both editors. Ultimately, 45 papers were accepted for publication and assembled into this volume organized under four sections:

1. Remediation of wetlands contamination
2. Wetlands for wastewater treatment
3. Wetlands design, construction, and operation
4. Wetlands ecology and restoration

By limiting each paper to eight pages (more or less), the editors were able to publish a comprehensive overview of the conference presentations in one volume. Moreover, the limited length of the papers gives the reader a quick review of all the authors' work. The editors note that in the interest of speedy publication, neither typesetting nor copy editing was performed. That decision was unfortunate, in my opinion, as some of the foreign-submitted papers should have been edited for English.

That criticism aside, I found the book very interesting, especially the second section on using wetlands for wastewater treatment. There were 15 papers in this category, discussing wetland treatment efficacy for treatment of, chlorinated solvents, petroleum contact wastewaters, acid mine drainages, landfill-contaminated groundwaters, airport runoff, aircraft anti-deicing effluents, cheese processing wastewaters, dairy parlor wastewaters, slaughterhouse wastewaters, and septic tank effluents.

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