



Book reviews

The ABCs of Environmental Regulation, Second Edition

Joel B. Goldsteen, ABS Consulting, Government Institutes, Rockville, MD, 2002, US\$ 79.00, pp. 300, ISBN: 0-86587-949-4

It is a gross understatement to say US environmental law is complex. That complexity is lessened by Government Institutes' several publications among which is my favorite, *The Environmental Law Handbook* which is published approximately every 2 years. This book is written by attorneys expert in the field of environmental law. To supplement that publication, Government Institutes has a wide range of other books entitled "XXX CFRs Made Easy" where the XXX is replaced by "water," "air," etc. Another addition to this series of books on environmental law is *The ABCs of Environmental Regulation, Second Edition*, which was written by a professor in the School of Urban and Public Affairs at the University of Texas as an attempt to make the many US environmental laws understandable to non-lawyers. He takes a practical and basic approach to explaining the scope of environmental regulations while providing a concise, yet comprehensive discussion in non-technical language of 38 US environmental laws.

Each chapter summarizes one key subject area of federal regulation enabling readers to use the book as both a quick-reference guide for understanding the scope, issues, and focus of the federal programs and as a concise macro-picture of the federal environmental regulations. Summaries include history, requirements, permits, technology, enforcement measures, location of species of particular concern, special programs, related regulations, and compliance pertaining to each regulation. A unique timeline of federal environmental regulations is also included.

Goldsteen has provided a succinct, easy-to-read overview (in 40 chapters) of the numerous US federal laws such as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Pollution Prevention Act, etc. He accomplishes the review of these laws exceedingly well with each chapter beginning with an overview of the law or topic discussed. Interspersed in the chapter are interesting photographs, some of which appear to "just be inserted," and bear no relation to the topic in hand. Moreover, in simplifying the review of the acts, less than accurate statements slip into the text. For example, Goldsteen says:

- Pretreatment of wastewater is required for industrial wastewater discharge to public sewer systems. (Pretreatment is only required if the concentration of contaminants in the industrial wastewater exceeds local or federal guidelines.)

- Regulation of air contaminants is discussed. Included in the list of air contaminants are O₃, NO_x, VOCs, Pb, PM-10 and PM-2.5. (Not on the list, however, is SO₂.)

The above criticism aside, I found the book well-written and generally complete in its coverage. If I were teaching a course to engineers or scientists, I would seriously consider adopting the text to illustrate environmental law to these students.

As a final comment, I note that Goldsteen has referred the reader to appropriate sections in the US Code.

Gary F. Bennett

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Wastewater and Biosolids Treatment Technologies: The Comprehensive Reference for Plant Managers and Operators

Nicholas P. Cheremisinoff, ABS Consulting, Rockville, MD, 2003, 368 pp., US\$ 129.00, ISBN 0-86587-946-X

This book is a condensed reference guide to 36 different treatment technologies. The author notes that the book is “written from a technical engineering perspective, the technology descriptions. . . provide current and aspiring environmental professionals with chemical diagrams, advanced instruction, and detailed diagrams of technology equipment. Each description also includes the general background for the technology, procedures, advantages, disadvantages, health hazards, applications, applicable laws and regulations, design considerations, equipment options, and operations for each. In addition, each description ends with a list of resources for additional information.”

Some sections are much longer than others, especially in relation to their relative importance in the field.

Unfortunately, the information provided in this book is very limited. Moreover, the references are in many cases, dated and spotty. Some references seem to be totally unrelated to the section in which they are cited. For example, the chapter on nitrification contains references to activated carbon adsorption and biofiltration for air pollution control. Their relevance to the chapter is not evident. Another problem with the references is that they are simply listed at the end of the chapter and not cited in the text.

The author notes that “as a bonus feature, this book also includes a comprehensive glossary of more than 1100 terms used in wastewater and biosolids-sludge treatment operation.” The 65 pages used for this purpose, in my opinion, contribute nothing to the book.

Gary F. Bennett

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Principles of Radiological Health and Safety

James E. Martin and Chul Lee, John Wiley & Sons Inc., Hoboken, NJ, 2003, US\$ 89.95, 539 pp., ISBN: 0-471-25429-0

This book was written by a professor and research associate at the University of Michigan, School of Public Health. These authors have been teaching a course on the basic principles