

tive while combating apathy and avoiding provoking hostility and mistrust.”

This book, now in its third edition 10 years after the appearance of the first, contains a thorough discussion of strategies and guidance for conveying risk information. That process is not easy, to which I can attest, as I have personally been involved in the public communication process that scrutinized hazardous waste disposal, incineration, and the “dreaded” dioxins. [As an aside, I was surprised to see dioxins not mentioned in the book as the potential toxicity of this compound and public discussion of it have been much in the news.]

Risk communication is defined by the authors as “. . . the interactive process of exchange of information and opinions among individuals, groups, and institutions concerning a risk or potential risk to human health or the environment. Any risk communication effort must have an interactive component, if only in soliciting information about the audience in the beginning or evaluating success in the end.” The book describes the process of communicating risk in detail in 20 chapters categorized under the following five major headings:

- Understanding risk communication
- Planning the risk communication effort
- Putting risk communication into action
- Evaluating risk communication efforts
- Bioterrorism and other emergencies

The last section of the book, which deals with bioterrorism, is understandably new, being spawned by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The authors note that such incidents “have their own unique characteristics that affect how risk communication is put into practice.” These characteristics are purpose; sense of urgency; rapid rate of change; disruptive logistics; potential for large numbers of ill or injured people across wide jurisdictions; intense media attention; emotional response; incomplete or unknown information; involvement of multiple organizations, sometimes with competing agendas, including possible criminal/regulatory investigation; security and privacy issues; and backlash. This chapter contains an excellent section on how to work with the media in terrorist-caused events.

The book’s format makes it easy to read. It is 10 in. × 8 in. in size, which is larger than most books. It has good-sized print and the text only consumes about two-third of each page with the margins intentionally left blank except for “high-lighted” messages.

In my opinion, this book is an excellent primer on the issues of communication and should be read by engineers and scientists (among others) who deal with the problem of communicating to the public on environmental, health, or safety issues.

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Marco Pelli, Augusto Porta (Eds.), Remediation of Contaminated Sediments—2003: Proceedings of the Second International Conference on Remediation of Contaminated Sediments, Venice, Italy, Battelle Press, Columbus, OH, 2004, ISBN 1-57477-143-4, US\$ 195.00, CD-ROM.

This disk reportedly contains 117 papers submitted to the editors from the above noted conference. The papers are divided into 14 major topical areas:

- Beneficial reuse
- Ex situ treatment
- Monitored natural recovery
- Physical–chemical treatment technologies
- Bioremediation studies
- Metals characterization and remediation
- Characterization of contaminated sediments
- Risk assessment
- Innovative assessment technology
- Sediment toxicity measurement
- Sediment management
- Ports and harbor management
- Confined disposal in aquatic and terrestrial environments
- Reactive caps

Needless to say, the variety of paper topics was wide. I turned first to the Beneficial Use chapter. One author described the use of sediment in making bricks (Germany); another incorporated sediment in cement (Italy); a third use suggested was to create green space (UK).

Next, I read papers in the last section of the disk—Reactive Barriers. One paper by Reible of Louisiana State University described a capping demonstration project whose objective was to “. . . demonstrate, on a field level scale, the ability to design, construct and place caps that will provide long-term treatment of sediment contaminants while simultaneously providing containment.” Other papers in this section discuss stabilization/solidification in situ, sediment treatment to control sulfide odours, remediation using sulfate-reducing bacteria and magnetic separation, and biosparging.

Since my doctoral thesis involved microbes, it is not surprising that I turned to the Bioremediation section. Published here were papers on the use of a biopile to remediate an oil spill, removal of the 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid in a slurry bioreactor, landfarming of PAHs, treatment of dioxin-polluted soil in a solid-phase bioreactor and degradation of *o*-xylene in soil.

Finally, I report on papers on the session entitled ex situ Treatment. One paper discusses remediation using landfarm-