

Reviews by Beverley Foss <bfoss@hookup.net>

Technical Information Coordinator, Gartner Lee Limited, Suite 102, 140

Renfrew Drive, Markham, Ontario, Canada L3R 6B3. TEL: 905-477-8400 ext. 258. FAX: 905-477-1456

Knowles, Porter-C., Editor. *Fundamentals Of Environmental Science and Technology*. Rockville,, Maryland: Government Institutes, Inc., 1992. 138 pp. US\$24.95.

ISBN: 0-86587-302-X. Printed on acid-free paper.

These days solutions to environmental problems can require a detailed understanding of many complex disciplines. Geotechnical engineers work with hydrogeologists, biologists with soil scientists and chemists with all disciplines. In the meantime, while scientists are speaking to each other using jargon, formulas, and mathematics, environmentalists and interested laypeople are often left out of the process. The authors of this primer have gone a long way toward meeting a need for easy to read scientific information.

Areas covered in this book reflect the interests of the authors, all of whom are on staff at Dames & Moore, a well known environmental consulting firm. There are chapters on geology and hydrogeology, chemistry, laboratory and sampling processes, waste management, air and water pollution, storage tank technologies and recycling. Biological disciplines in land reclamation, resource management, forestry, fisheries and wildlife are not included. It is to be hoped that these sciences will be covered in a similar publication in the future.

In the meantime, this book is a pleasure to read. The language is clear and concise, sometimes verging on the elegant as when Linda Black-Coville, one of the authors, talks about the different ways of seeing a sunset. Formulas are kept to a minimum. There are diagrams and tables, references included with each chapter and an index.

Those without a chemistry background may wish to skip over the few sections that are perhaps too technical for a book of this nature. The editor states in the preface that the book is intended for "students, lay-personnel, technical experts, attorneys, regulators, and policy makers". Beyond that, I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in learning about waste management and pollution control. I would also recommend it to engineering librarians who need to know what their clientele are talking about.