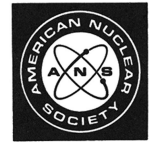


BOOK REVIEWS

Selection of books for review is based on the editors' opinions regarding possible reader interest and on the availability of the book to the editors. Occasional selections may include books on topics somewhat peripheral to the subject matter ordinarily considered acceptable.



**Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy,
Volume 11: Health Physics and
Radiation Protection, Radioactive
Waste Management, The Environ-
ment and Public Acceptance**

Editors International Atomic
Energy Agency;
United Nations

Publisher Unipub, Inc. (1972)

Pages 766

Price \$14.00

Reviewer James B. Smathers

At the outset, one must concede that the significance of the Geneva Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy is such that any library which prides itself in possessing a significant collection in nuclear science and engineering will purchase a full set of the conference proceedings, this review and others not withstanding. Thus, the intent of the review is to determine if the content of Vol. 11 is such that a practicing nuclear engineer might want a copy for his personal library.

The first observation relates to the printing of the Proceedings. About 39% of the papers were given and are printed in a language other than English. However, for an additional \$9.75, English translations of all but three of the articles can be obtained. One wonders if the percentage of sales in the English speaking countries would not warrant an all English version.

As the topics considered have not undergone any major technical advances in the last two years, the material presented, with several obvious exceptions, is applicable today.

Part A, "Health Physics and Radiation Protection," contains several excellent review papers with extensive references on topics of current interest. Regrettably, it contains an equal number of papers treating the national health physics program in country "x y z." The latter papers are considered to be of limited value or interest to the membership.

The papers on "Radioactive Waste Management," Part B, surveyed the methods in use throughout the world. Philosophical differences concerning the relative magnitude of the hazards involved in waste management and

the acceptability of disposal of waste by burial at sea are more apparent than any technical differences.

The papers in the section on "The Environment and Public Acceptance" vary significantly in overall quality, but the section would be an excellent source for background information for use in preparation of public service talks on the subject. This section must have created the impression at the conference of a preacher "preaching to the converted."

In summary, I would say that some of the papers contained in Vol. 11 are quite interesting, but, in general, the volume would not be used enough to warrant purchase.

James B. Smathers is a professor of nuclear engineering at Texas A&M University, where he has been a faculty member for the past six years. Prior to coming to TAMU, he was associated with the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. His current research interests are in the field of high-energy neutron radiation therapy and in space radiation dosimetry.

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