

arguments for them. Canadian participants might be judged to be the least biased with regard to U.S. programs, and they seemed to feel that the weight of U.S. authority is against alternative systems, although there are cogent arguments for U.S. program diversification.

A major commentary is that of H. J. Larson, who seemed to be the only conferee who was willing to discuss the number one question of nuclear futures: "... whether the solution(s) to many of the problems... are really solvable by technical and management people. There are strong indicators that the solution has moved to the public and political arena."

Larson's comment really set the stage for my final, capsule review of the book. It is, as previously indicated, a useful summary of the rationale of the standard U.S. nuclear strategy, grouped together with some stimulating papers on alternative reactor systems. Yet, the discussion is largely irrelevant. The major issues today are issues of "whether" rather than "when" or "what": whether we will ever deploy the breeder (given that its deployment schedule under economic circumstances might be impacted by such alternative technologies as solar electricity); whether nuclear power is a transient (albeit vital) solution to the energy dilemma of our generation; whether we will ever return to a learning curve of decreasing real cost of construction; whether we will be permitted to close the fuel cycle.

Nuclear (and other) energy development in the U.S. is, unfortunately, now controlled by corporate policy and government decree. To be able to profit from the inventive genius of the sort of people who met at Wingspread, the public issues must be settled and the technological initiative must be returned to the laboratory. I feel that the Wingspread Conference's most significant result is that, by its failure to take these matters into account, it has illustrated just how important they are.

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Design of Radiotracer Experiments in Marine Biological Systems
(Technical Reports Series No. 167)

<i>Publisher</i>	International Atomic Energy Agency (1975) (Distributed by Unipub, Inc.)
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This report consists of an introduction (6 pages), the report itself (25 pages), and ten supporting papers (255 pages) prepared by some of the members of the Panel on Reference Methods for Marine Radiobiological Studies prior to their meeting in Monaco, June 25-29, 1973. Although the Foreword stresses the need for establishing rational limits for disposal of radioactive wastes to the environment, the report deals with the problems involved in research in the radioecology of marine environments. Especially stressed are (a) the difficulties in understanding the significance of experimental results, (b) the difficulties in comparing results obtained using different experimental approaches, (c) the difficulties in extrapolating laboratory results to

make predictions in the natural environment, (d) the need for documenting the physico-chemical forms of the radioactive tracer and the state of the isotopic equilibrium between the tracer and the stable physico-chemical forms of the element, (e) the need for measuring and controlling all the physiological parameters and physical and chemical conditions that could influence the experiments, (f) the importance of synergistic effects caused by the influence of other contaminants and effects (organic matter, heavy metals, increased siltation, elevated temperature), and (g) the desirability of utilizing as fully as possible all releases of radioactivity into the marine environment for studies on transport, distribution, and behavior of radionuclides to obtain information difficult to derive from laboratory experiments.

The body of the report does not go into any of the methodology of the measurements of the radioactivity in marine environments. It refers instead to the International Atomic Energy Agency Technical Reports Series No. 118, *Reference Methods for Marine Radioactivity Studies*. The report does go into detail on biological and chemical measurements and on precautions to take in carrying them out. The reader is made aware of the problems involved in the collection, transportation, and handling of organisms and the wide variations in specific requirements for the different types of biota. The supporting papers give further detailed examples dealing with phytoplankton, zooplankton, benthic algae, benthic invertebrates, mollusks, fish, subcellular studies, marine food chains, field and laboratory comparability, and modeling studies.

If there are readers of *Nuclear Technology* who are contemplating the possibility of beginning some experiments in marine radioecology, they will find this report of great value. Readers who are looking for information to aid in the establishment of rational limits for disposal of radioactive wastes to the environment will be disappointed unless they are looking for points upon which to criticize the possibly unrealistic limits based on measurements that may not have taken account of the many precautions and caveats described in the report and its supporting papers.

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