

BOOK REVIEWS

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



Energy Resources in Colorado: Coal, Oil Shale, and Uranium

Author Jerome G. Morse
Publisher Westview Press, Boulder, Colorado (1979)
Pages 396
Price \$33.00
Reviewer Arthur L. Reesman

So you don't live in Colorado, well neither do I. Key words can sometimes turn off more potential readers than they attract. However, I am certain that this book attracted the local audience for which it was designed, but many of us outlanders could also benefit from this book.

Energy Resources in Colorado provides much more than its title might indicate. With the exception of oil shale, which by the nature of its distribution is fairly well restricted to Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming with Colorado taking the lion's share, the text that relates exclusively to Colorado is minimal. The book was designed to provide the basic information on coal, oil shale, and uranium so that the "policymakers" in Colorado would have sufficient background to help formulate long-range plans concerning the development of these energy resources and the potential impact that their decisions could have on the human, economic, and natural resources in the State.

The information in the text is presented in a straightforward manner and the author appears to go out of his way to avoid editorializing. The book contains 99 tables, 39 figures, and 15 plates, but it is not a compilation of dry facts nor is it a novel. The author has digested data from a wide range of sources many of which are not readily obtainable to develop a book that provides the type of information that planners, legislators, corporations, and interested individuals need to help formulate a realistic appraisal of these three energy resources in the light of our present energy dilemma.

The author assumes that the reader is reasonably intelligent but with little or no technical background. A glossary of technical terms is provided. Each of the three resources is covered equally and the chapter headings in each section are essentially the same so that with a little work on the reader's part it is possible to compare these resources. The chapter headings for the uranium section are: Chapter 19, "Nature of the Resource"; 20, "Exploration"; 21, "Uranium Recovery"; 22, "Uranium Processing"; 23, "Commercial Development Considerations"; 24, "Environmental Considerations"; 25, "Regulatory Considerations"; 26,

"Colorado Uranium: Importance and Impact"; 27, "Technological Developments Affecting Uranium Needs"; 28, "Uranium Production Constraints"; and 29, "The Future—Observations and Concerns."

After reading this book you may not become an active "stripper" or environmentalist, but you should appreciate the problems on both sides and the considerations that must be weighed in order to develop these energy resources with the maximum benefit at the least cost in terms of environmental degradation and socio-economic disruption of the effected regions.

At \$33, this book will not make the best seller list. As my department's library representative, I had not ordered it because our funds are limited and I assumed that the scope of the book was too provincial. I have rectified my mistake.

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Principles of Nuclear Radiation Detection

Author Geoffrey G. Eichholz and John W. Poston
Publisher Ann Arbor Science Publishers, Inc. (1979)
Pages 379
Price \$29.95
Reviewer R. J. Woods

The detection and measurement of nuclear radiation is an essential step in the safe and efficient use of radioisotopes and radiation-producing equipment, whether employed in medicine, industry, nuclear-power production, or research. The present book introduces the techniques used for this purpose at a level suited to senior undergraduate or graduate students, and will undoubtedly find considerable use as a text in such areas as health physics, nuclear medicine, and nuclear engineering. The approach is directed toward the practical applications of radiation instrumentation rather than being exclusively concerned with the physical principles involved.