

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.



Nuclear Power and Radioactive Waste

Author David A. Deese
Publisher Lexington Books, Lexington, Massachusetts (1978)
Pages 206
Price \$18.00
Reviewer Yutaka Kono

The subject of this book is sub-seabed disposal of radioactive waste. While the radioactive waste disposal programs of most countries are focused on investigation of land-based geologic disposal, sub-seabed disposal is also an attractive option because of its geologic stability. The author says: "Beyond the various technical advantages and disadvantages involved, use of the international seabed for radioactive waste disposal raises a multitude of social, economic, political, legal, institutional, and ethical issues. It is these issues that are analyzed in this volume."

The book refers to historical reviews of past ocean dumping of nuclear and non-nuclear waste and presents

analyses of domestic regulations and international laws, worldwide policies, and ethical considerations. It also suggests institutional possibilities for sub-seabed disposal.

Upon reading this book, I find it strange that there is no discussion of the sub-seabed disposal internationally, despite the fact that most countries are more or less interested in it. As the author states, "not only is the international governmental agreement necessary, but also international public acceptance is requisite to its implementation."

The book contains precise and cautious analysis of the various problems surrounding the sub-seabed disposal option, and would be an excellent framework for this discussion. It would be better if the author had suggested how to start the discussion and who should organize it. Or, are the readers expected to consider it?

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