

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.



Small Hydroelectric Projects for Rural Development

Editors Louis J. Goodman, John N. Hawkins, and Ralph N. Love

Publisher Pergamon Press, Inc., Elmsford, New York (1981)

Pages 200

Price \$20.00

Reviewer Efstathios E. Michaelides

This short monograph presents the history of development, planning, and management experience of small hydroelectric plants. It concentrates on case studies in four areas (China, the Philippines, New Zealand, and Hawaii) and presents a great deal of data on the management of the projects, the organizational structure, and the economic background associated with each installation. However, the small number of areas chosen and the limited number of cases presented detracts from the general nature of the work and the conclusions.

The book neither addresses any technical issues or design problems nor exposes in detail the technical experience of the cases covered. It seems to be addressed to energy planners and managers rather than design engineers. The information provided could be of some value to the engineer who wants to have a broad idea of energy alternatives or of the status, development, costs, and benefits of hydroelectric power.

The editors must be commended for presenting their material in an unfragmented and integrated way. The literary presentation would have been excellent if some unnecessary details on the history and the development of many cases had been deleted.

Efstathios E. Michaelides studied at the University of Oxford, England (BA, engineering science and economics, 1977) and Brown University (MS, 1979, and PhD, 1980, engineering science). Since the summer of 1980, he has been an assistant professor at the University of Delaware, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. His research interests are multiphase flow, energy conversion, geothermal energy applications, and irreversible thermodynamics. He has contributed about 25 papers to scientific and technical literature.

The Politics of Uranium

Author Norman Moss

Publisher Universe Books, New York (1982)

Pages 239

Price \$13.95

Reviewer Geoffrey G. Eichholz

and

The Atom Besieged

(Antinuclear Movements in France and Germany)

Author Dorothy Nelkin and Michael Pollak

Publisher The MIT Press, Cambridge (1982)

Pages 235

Price \$7.95 paperbound

Reviewer Geoffrey G. Eichholz

No person active in the beleaguered nuclear industry can have any doubts that the future of that industry will be decided as much or more by political considerations as by technological accomplishment or economic factors. Many are only dimly aware of the forces that shape those political decisions and of the many, often countervailing philosophies and motivations that fuel them. Sometimes it is easy to blame Luddite tendencies or anticapitalist movements for the troubles the nuclear power industry finds itself in, and it is useful and certainly educational to view some of the issues from a different perspective.

The books under review both attempt to do this, though they differ markedly in approach and emphasis. Dorothy Nelkin is a distinguished political scientist, and her book, with M. Pollak, attempts to analyze the "nuclear opposition" in France and Germany more in terms of what they tell us about the political and social movements in those countries than about the merits or otherwise of the nuclear power issues as such. Nelkin and Pollak declare their political criterion from the start: that governmental capacity to tolerate radical protest and social conflict is a criterion for public freedom. It is with this interest in