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Review of: Peter K. LaGoy, *Risk Assessment: Principles and Applications for Hazardous Waste and Related Sites* (Noyes Publications 1994)

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Erratum

The citation for this review is 7 *RISK* 385 (1996) in most commercial databases.

Peter K. LaGoy, *Risk Assessment: Principles and Applications for Hazardous Waste and Related Sites* (Noyes Publications 1994). Appendices, figures, index, notes, preface, references, tables. LC 94-2510; ISBN 0-8155-1349-6. [260 pp. Cloth \$48.00. 120 Mill Road, Park Ridge NJ 07656.]

Mr. LaGoy, Risk Assessment Manager for a remediation firm, begins his book by stating that “[R]isk assessment can be thought of as the process used to measure the need for, and success of, remedial action.”¹ That is a narrower definition than some would give and serves to reinforce the focus suggested by the title.

This is not an introductory text. It contains no glossary. Thus, those without a basic understanding of hazardous site evaluation and remediation should probably begin elsewhere.

Moreover LaGoy seems to assume that readers are aware of the tension between saving lives and saving money. Thus, not until the fourth chapter, does he note, e.g., that:²

[H]azardous waste site risk assessment is more focused on protecting human health than in getting the right answer. The focus is somewhat misguided in that... being overly conservative... can increase risks from other causes.

This book makes good use of examples drawn from over twelve years of experience, and its appendices, running over 50 pages, discuss two case studies. Readers already familiar with basic terms and concepts (and even some who are not) may feel that they are next to him, working in the field.

Risk Assessment is well produced, and its chapters treat a wide variety of topics, including chemical characteristics, toxicology, exposure assessment, risk characterization, uncertainty, risk communication, as well as radiation and ecological risk assessment.

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¹ Preface, at v.

² At 59.

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