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Peer reviewed

Ground Water Handook

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Ground Water Handbook. Second ed. Rockville, MD: Government Institutes, Inc., 1992. (Originally published and distributed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency). 144+141 pp. US\$69 paper ISBN: 0-86587-279-1.

The volume under review appears to be a straight reprint of a two-volume work published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1990-1991. The present publisher has done little more than invert the title (*Ground Water Handbook* instead of *Handbook: Ground Water*) and add a detailed table of contents. The EPA's *Handbook: Groundwater* (comprising vol. 1, *Ground Water and Contamination*, 1990, 144 pp, EPA/625/6-90/016a and vol. 2, *Methodology*, 1991, 141 pp., EPA 625/6-90/016b) was itself an expansion of that agency's earlier single volume of the same title (1987, 212 pp., EPA/625/6-87/016), with additional material from another EPA document, *Protection of Public Water Supplies from Ground-Water Contamination* (EPA/625/4-85/016).

In a flyer headed "New Book Announcement," Government Institutes advertised *Ground Water Handbook* as a "Second Edition," with the authorship attributed to the EPA, and the publication date given as 1992. Republishing government documents verbatim, with only a title-word inversion to differentiate between the government-distributed version and the later, privately-published-for-profit version, is perfectly legal and is not unique to Government Institutes, Inc.

EPA's *Handbook: Ground Water* (and its reprint *Ground Water Handbook*) is a good, basic introduction to ground water issues for decision makers and the scientific community. It is readable for the educated layperson and has substantial lists of references following each chapter. Illustrations are clear and pertinent. The EPA's 1990 and 1991 volumes are printed on recycled paper. There is little to choose between the EPA and Government Institutes versions as to binding: both are paper. Before purchasing Government Institute's *Ground Water Handbook*, it would be prudent to examine a copy of the EPA's *Handbook: Ground Water* in any federal depository library.