

BOOK REVIEW

THE ENERGY HANDBOOK (William A. Mogel and David J. Muchow, eds.,
Matthew Bender, 2003)

Reviewed by Jonathan D. Schneider*

Should they ever retire, there are no obvious replacements at the Bar for Bill Mogel and David Muchow in their roles as the patron saints for energy literature. In addition to practicing energy law for decades, Mr. Mogel of Dorsey & Whitney LLP, is responsible for founding and serving as Editor-in-Chief of the *Energy Law Journal* and for countless energy-related publications, including *Energy Law and Transactions*, a seven volume treatise, on which David Muchow serves as Co-Editor. Mr. Muchow currently serves as President and CEO of SkyBuilt Power, LLC. He was General Counsel of the American Gas Association from 1976 to 1998, during which time he originated another five-volume publication, *Regulation of the Gas Industry*.

With *The Energy Handbook*, Mogel and Muchow have provided a highly useful energy reference for energy practitioners, business users, and the general public. This is one to keep on your desk.

It begins with a Federal, State, and International Government Resources and Contact Information directory. This includes contact information with addresses and phone numbers for federal agencies dealing with energy in the broadest sense; for instance, the Department of Justice (DOJ) is included. Senate and House Committees and Subcommittees affecting energy matters also are listed. I found this particularly helpful, for example, when trying to remember what subcommittees were under the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Then, the most important energy agencies are listed in greater detail with organization charts, titles, and names. The section on the Department of Transportation (DOT) lists the Regional Offices for the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS), including addresses and the chiefs of each region, as well as a description of the functions of the OPS.

The glossary is particularly valuable. It includes some 4,500 energy terms. Employing the U.S. Energy Information Administration's huge glossary as a base-level resource, the editors have substantially expanded on it, adding illustrations and providing a valuable reference that even the most skilled practitioners will find useful. In addition, Mogel and Muchow have collected a wealth of information from their contacts in energy associations around the world. In some ways the glossary is more like an encyclopedia, with pages of recent electric statistics from the Edison Electric Institute, lots of useful information from the Solar Energy Industries Association, and a chart on economies of scale for wind power from the American Wind Energy

* Mr. Schneider serves as the Book Review Editor of the *Energy Law Journal*.

Association. You will find a lot of terms rarely seen, such as, "Thermosiphoning. Upward movement, by natural convection, of fluid warmed in a solar collector" (p. 3492). Fortunately, we now have a good source for many new terms not found in traditional energy sources, such as "Megawatt Laundering," made famous from the recent energy crises in California.

For law firms looking for energy clients, the long list of Energy Companies and Industry Associations with web sites is very useful. These range from the American Bioenergy Association to Worldwatch Institute. Also, you can search for associations by type, for example, "Coal Associations" or "Gas and Electric Utilities." In addition to the glossary, the Handbook provides a potpourri of additional resources including energy conversion tables in case you just can't quite remember how to convert Btus per minute to horsepower. In short, this is a really useful reference tool for all of us.
