

CHOICE

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REFERENCE

Science & Technology

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The following review appeared in the June 2010 issue of CHOICE:

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The Water dictionary: a comprehensive reference of water terminology, ed. by Nancy E. McTigue and James M. Symons. 2nd ed. American Water Works Association, 2010. 716p ISBN 9781583217412, \$299.00

Work on this second edition has been under way since publication of the *Drinking Water Dictionary*, compiled and edited by J. M. Symons, L. C. Bradley Jr., and T. C. Cleveland (2000). McTigue brings to the task expertise in water treatment and management gained from a career in research, consulting, and writing. This edition broadens the focus beyond drinking water, eliminates the illustrations, and adds appendixes on regulated contaminants and disinfection by-products. What the editors admit is a glossary rather than a dictionary includes more than 15,000 terms, with 3,000 new to this edition. It is an admirable body of work, subjected to rigorous evaluation by a distinguished technical advisory committee, backed by the reliability of the AWWA brand. It will be useful for academic libraries building comprehensive reference collections in environmental engineering, or as a technical reference in environmental law. Although broad in scope, it may be too technical for, and is not intended for, small or medium-size undergraduate print reference collections. Justifying the investment in a print resource when space and budgets are tight may be difficult, and this dictionary might have greater value to undergraduates as an electronic product, accustomed as students are to finding reference information online. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Upper-level undergraduates through professionals/practitioners. -- *T. L. Bremholm, Tulane University*