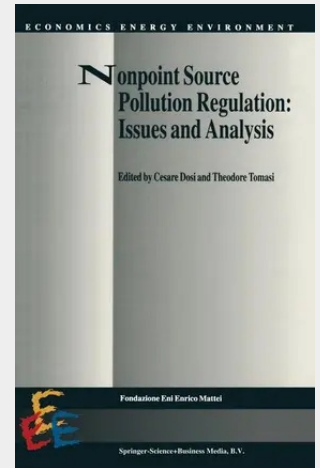


Nonpoint Source Pollution Regulation: Issues and Analysis

In April 1992 the Foundation Eni Enrico Mattei organized a workshop on the regulation of nonpoint source pollution. This volume includes the proceedings of that meeting, as well as additional original contributions, in an attempt to provide an overview of recent theoretical developments in the field. Research on the causes, consequences, and control of nonpoint source pollution has been carried out over the last two decades. Interest in this subject has grown as a result of the increasing recognition of the insufficiency of traditional pollution control policies focused on the large scale, confined, and generally predictable pollutant discharges. In fact, many contemporary problems are caused by the combined activities of small polluters, along with natural processes, intermittent and unpredictable events, and often involve pollutants with complex environmental outcomes. Despite the progress made in understanding the nature and size of pollution from diffuse sources, the issue of regulation is still far from being systematically and adequately addressed. This policy vacuum is partly attributable to the difficulty of adapting the traditional point source regulatory tool kit to the specific features of nonpoint source problems. Such features include the technical difficulty of identifying sources and measuring individual emissions, their variability over time and space, the role played by natural processes in determining pollutant discharges at source and their ultimate impacts on the receiving environmental media.

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