

1.	Record Nr.	UNIORUON00296966
	Titolo	Die altdeutsche Exodus / herausgegeben von Edgard Papp
	Pubbl/distr/stampa	München, : Fink, 1969
	Descrizione fisica	131 p. ; 23 cm.
	Disciplina	222.12
	Lingua di pubblicazione	Tedesco
	Formato	Materiale a stampa
	Livello bibliografico	Monografia
2.	Record Nr.	UNINA9910970784903321
	Titolo	Alternatives for ground water cleanup // Committee on Ground Water Cleanup Alternatives, Water Science and Technology Board, Board on Radioactive Waste Management, Commission on Geosciences, Environment, and Resources, [National Research Council]
	Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C., : National Academy Press, 1994
	ISBN	9786610195879 9781280195877 1280195878 9780309586245 0309586240 9780585168326 0585168326
	Edizione	[1st ed.]
	Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (333 p.)
	Disciplina	363.73/94
	Soggetti	Groundwater - Purification
	Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
	Formato	Materiale a stampa
	Livello bibliografico	Monografia
	Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
	Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.

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Sommario/riassunto

There may be nearly 300,000 waste sites in the United States where ground water and soil are contaminated. Yet recent studies question whether existing technologies can restore contaminated ground water to drinking water standards, which is the goal for most sites and the result expected by the public. How can the nation balance public health, technological realities, and cost when addressing ground water cleanup? This new volume offers specific conclusions, outlines research needs, and recommends policies that are technologically sound while still protecting health and the environment. Authored by the top experts from industry and academia, this volume Examines how the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of the subsurface environment, as well as the properties of contaminants, complicate the cleanup task. Reviews the limitations of widely used conventional pump-and-treat cleanup systems, including detailed case studies. Evaluates a range of innovative cleanup technologies and the barriers to their full implementation. Presents specific recommendations for policies and practices in evaluating contamination sites, in choosing remediation technologies, and in setting appropriate cleanup goals.
