

Environmental risk assessment

Shamsad Ahmad and S.M. Abbas

Proceedings of International Conference on New Challenges for Civil Engineers of Developing Countries in the 21st Century, 29 February, 1, 2 March, 1996, Civil Engineering Department, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India, pp. 77-80

Abstract:

The fast growing problem of environmental pollution due to release of hazardous substances in the environment has become a real challenge both in developing and developed countries throughout the world. Although a number of environmental protection laws regulate the safe release of pollutants in the environment, the environmental risk is not completely eliminated. Therefore, there is always a need of environmental risk assessment either quantitatively or through probabilistic approach.

In the present paper, various methods of environmental risk assessment have been briefly outlined. Quantitative and probabilistic approaches for risk assessment have been described with their merits and demerits. Finally, it is observed that the probabilistic approach is more appropriate than quantitative risk assessment for quantifying the probability of the failure of environmental system due to the introduction of incompatible materials. The probabilistic approach has also been illustrated through a suitable example.