Eugene S. Simpson

EDITOR'S PREFACE

In recent decades the exploitation of groundwater resources has been generating ever-increasing legal, economic, and social conflict. No country seems to be immune. Quite often, where attempts are made to resolve conflicts, hydrogeologists are not part of the solution; that is, in many countries the controlling agencies lack hydrogeological expertise. Under these circumstances results may be indecisive or lead to further problems. In part, the fault may lie with hydrogeologists, most of whom devote little time or effort to the "soft science" side of hydrogeology.

This issue contains a paper by three eminent members of IAH: Ramón Llamas, William Back, and Jean Margat. Their paper discusses the relation between social benefit and environmental cost in the context of groundwater exploitation. They ask our readers to consider these matters and to suggest ways to improve communication among all involved groups and agencies. To further this effort, **APPLIED HYDROGEOLOGY** will welcome case histories of attempts to resolve conflicts relating to groundwater exploitation, whether or not successful, and where the author will provide an analysis of what was wrong and what was right.

On another matter: We need peer reviewers and, in particular, reviewers from countries other than the United States and Canada. Should you wish to volunteer for this essential chore, please send me a brief resume of your professional background and areas of expertise at the following address:

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My thanks, in advance, to those of you who will volunteer.