

MRS BULLETIN

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SHORT COURSE

in liquid phase epitaxy

CHAIRMEN

of '82 and '83 Annual Meetings



COMMITTEES

and their membership

BERLIN

Scientific Basis for Radioactive Waste Management

For the first time, the Materials Research Society will hold two meetings in a single year. The Society extended one of the largest symposia at the annual Boston meeting, "The Scientific Basis For Nuclear Waste Management," to Europe. Dr. Werner Lutze, the meeting chairman, organized an international symposium in Berlin that was co-sponsored with the European Nuclear Society, the Kerntechnische Gesellschaft and the Hahn-Meitner-Institut fuer Kernforschung of Berlin. This meeting is now history.

The symposium attracted 300 attendees from sixteen nations to the beautiful host city of Berlin. The latest technical information from a variety of disciplines and vantage points was exchanged in the now traditional MRS manner; i.e., with enthusiasm and interdisciplinary vigor. The meeting then, was interdisciplinary, international, and successful.

A special session chaired by Dr. T. Pigford (Berkeley) on research priorities indicated the state of maturity of the field of nuclear waste management. Among the items high on the list of identified priorities were:

* clear and accepted standards for isolation of nuclear waste

* experiments directed towards understanding the mechanisms of reactions for site specific, realistic conditions

* fundamental thermodynamic data (solubility products, etc.) on the actinides at intermediate pH's

The impact of the solubility products on bounding potential nuclide release from repositories is beginning to be appreciated by those who are trying to model the total system.

Among comments heard at the meeting were pleas for research orientations and programs that contribute towards solutions of well defined problems rather than work that is designed to increase the data base.

Another opinion that was expressed with frequency in Berlin is that the time has arrived to begin system optimization studies, to identify specific research needs, and then to close the back end of the fuel cycle.

The proceedings of the European MRS meeting, the fifth in this international series on nuclear waste management, will be published by Elsevier - North Holland as a number in the MRS Proceedings Series.