The paper prepared by Chen, France and Sharpe is a concise discussion of the options available and the issues inherent in financing solid waste systems and/or projects. The reader will find that this paper not only provides insight into the complex topic of solid waste financing, but it also elicits new ideas and integrates financing issues with technical and legal concepts. For engineers, this paper is a valuable and useful reference document.

Often public officials, faced with finding a mechanism to economically provide much needed solid waste services, look for “innovative” financing approaches. While the authors provide options, they also put into perspective the components needed to make a “good deal”—for the public, for private industry and for the investment community.

As the solid waste industry moves into the 1990s, I would concur with the author’s conclusions regarding system financings and the challenges that exist for financing projects such as landfills, recycling programs and composting activities.