

and one with an atmosphere of methane.

Entitling his work *Atomic Power in Space*, Dr. Richard Engler has taken us on satellite launches and to the outer reaches of the Solar System. Characterizing radioisotope thermoelectric generator technology as a "quiet technology," he has aptly pointed out that the generators have been a smaller part of larger shows, albeit a vital part. Although creating a small, "quiet" product, the radioisotope thermoelectric generator programs of first the Atomic Energy Commission, then the Energy Research and Development Administration, and finally the Department of Energy, have nevertheless grown and prospered while the rest of the nuclear space effort has been abolished. Dr. Engler has woven the contrast of prosperity and decline into his story while vividly capturing through oral history the views of radioisotope thermoelectric generator developers and users. Organizational change as well as ever-vigilant attention to safety has also characterized the program and Dr. Engler has discussed these themes in detail. Most thought provoking are the lessons he drew from the program. Regardless of the scale of the radioisotope thermoelectric generator program efforts, the lessons gleaned from such a successful program should be of value to anyone involved in technological development.