

CSS 486 Public Involvement Case Study Assignment

Purpose: Generally, the best public involvement programs consist of an ongoing process and series of events that seek to inform and involve stakeholders and the public over time to solicit informed participation in the decision making process. (PI programs are seldom just one-shot events like a workshop or hearing.) Therefore, there is much to be learned from the case study approach to examining public involvement programs. The purpose of this assignment is to allow you to learn from the actual experiences people have had with public involvement conducted by agencies and organizations and their successes and failures.

Method: You will compare and contrast the public involvement component of any TWO agencies or organizations using the case study approach.

- What were the problems that they were addressing or trying to overcome?
- Did they explain their purpose and approach to public involvement?
- Did they explain who the stakeholders were or how they identified them?
- Did they take a unilateral or multilateral (single technique or combination of techniques) approach to public involvement?
- Did they discuss what worked and what did not work?
- Did they make recommendations on how to improve or approach public involvement differently in the future?
- What similarities and differences do you see between the two cases?
- What is YOUR critique of what they did (or failed to do)?

Sources of for Case Studies: Fortunately, there are many case studies about public involvement and natural resource issues and collaboratives and partnerships on the internet. Below are a few to get you started:

The **Redlodge Clearinghouse** lists over 70 collaboration stories from the West and 9 publications on lessons learned (however, not all contain adequate discussion of public involvement)

<http://rich.org/content/collaboration-resources>

The **Municipal Research & Services Center of Washington** (MRSC) lists over a dozen public involvement plans and sources, mainly municipal. You could start with one of these and then search for articles about how the particular community was doing with their PI efforts.

<http://www.mrsc.org/Subjects/Governance/Participation/compcipr.aspx>

The **Ecosystem Management Initiative** at the University of Michigan has over 25 excellent case studies both in the West and East coast and lots explanatory information.

<http://www.snre.umich.edu/ecomgt/cases/entry.htm>

The EPA web site has many pages about public involvement.

Writing the Paper: You will find that all of the cases are a little bit different and that you need to read through a few to pick the two that you want to discuss. Probably the best way to write this comparison of two case studies is to start with explaining the first bullet--what was the problem that they were addressing or trying to overcome (two paragraphs that summarize each case). Then use most of the remaining bullets to create sub-headings. (e.g., Purpose and Approach to PI; Identifying Stakeholders; PI Techniques Implemented, etc.) as a guide to compare the two.

Please type double spaced and include title and your name, page numbers, citations that are as complete as possible, the web links, and any other supporting documentation. I would expect you to need about 5 to 8 pages to present this assignment. (I'm flexible, but I do not want 15 or 20 page papers!)

Due Date: By the Monday after Spring Break you should have identified the two case studies you want to compare. I will visit with you in class to see if have selected two. The paper should be submitted by Monday, April 12th.