

BIO 167 (Environmental Impact Assessment) Case Work Simulation

Introduction

The case work simulation for this course BIO 167 for this academic school year will be divided into 4 games and 1 final report.

Simulation 1 – Concerns the rapid assessment of a set of projects in the context at the regional environmental planning and management needs of the area and is designed to encourage participants to make EIA's relevant to these needs, taking account of cumulative impacts or conflicts between the needs of different sectors.

Simulation 2 – Concerns the task of scoping the EIA study with a view to ensuring that the EIA is focused on the impacts and conflicts that are likely to be significant or of concern to the relevant agencies, organizations or the public.

Simulation 3 – Concerns the preparation of a terms of reference and work plan for the preparation of the EIA study itself and focuses on the required data needs, tasks, budget and the outputs desired.

Simulation 4 – concerns the preparation of an environmental management plan based on the results of the EIA study and requires the participants to consider the options available and the respective costs and benefits.

Simulation 5 – Concerns the compilation of the outputs to form a report and to do an EIA review of the EIA outputs acting as an EIA Reviewer committee.

In each case, the participants are required to make decisions on the basis of the information available and to make a presentation that sets out the basis for the decisions and justifications. There is no right answer.

Four Sectors

The EIA case work simulations presented here incorporate 4 different sectors: thermal power, petrochemicals, irrigation and coal mining. For this reason, participants need to divide into 4 working groups – each focusing on a different sector.

In Simulation 1, all the participants are provided with brief descriptions of the proposed projects in these 4 sectors and a map indicating 2 alternative sites for each project. These materials are used to focus on the regional environmental concerns and inter-sectoral conflicts. Each group undertakes exactly the same simulation exercise.

In Simulation 2, each of the four groups undertakes the task of “scoping” of the EIA in relation to a different project. Thus, the materials handed out are specific to the four projects but with the same instructions.

In Simulations 3, and 4. The 4 working groups undertake the same task but in relation to their specific projects. The materials handed out for Simulation 3 are the same for each project, but there are four versions of the materials for simulation 4.

In Simulation 5, we will do a random assignment of which group will do a review of what project as indicated in the four sectors assigned to the entire class.

All presentations will be done through ZOOM and the final report with the revisions from the indicated review will be submitted 2 weeks prior to the end of the semester for the appropriate grading. During the presentation of each simulation the presentation is only limited to 20 minutes MAX for every group. Every increment of a minute of time extension will be a 5 pts deduction to the final report grade.