UCONJ 540 — Environment and Health

Classroom “stakeholder” exercise, January 20, 2009

On January 20, we will discuss the situation surrounding the Port Townsend Paper Mill and community concerns about air quality.

In preparation for this session, please review materials posted at the UW Catalyst CommonView site, titled “UCONJ 540 - PT Paper Company and Air Quality Concerns.” The URL for this site is: https://catalysttools.washington.edu/workspace/bdaniell/10091/

It is not necessary to read all of the provided materials in detail. Some of the documents are lengthy and contain technical details. In reading the lengthier or more technical documents, you should focus on introduction/background material and conclusions, and scan through the more detailed middle sections to identify major points.

In preparation for the January 20 session, we ask that you write a “reflection” based on the provided material. It is not necessary to do any further investigation, although we certainly encourage you to do so if you are inspired.

A “reflection” is a personal creative essay, about one page in length (no longer than 2 pages). In general, in a reflection document, the student is asked to describe his/her personal thoughts about the material. In this case, however, we want you to reflect on this case situation from the perspective of a stakeholder...one of four selected stakeholders:

- A mother with a child who has asthma
- A blue collar worker, employed for 15 years at the paper mill
- A representative of the county health department
- A representative of the State Department of Ecology

You may define the scope of your essay. You should “put yourself in the shoes” of your assigned stakeholder, and imagine how they feel about the situation. It is helpful to consider: What are their values...what do they care about in life? How do those values intersect with this situation? What changes might they hope will occur, or will not occur, in this situation? How much personal power do they have in this situation, and how does that amount of personal power, or lack thereof, impact their thoughts or emotions about the situation?

If you have questions, contact Bill Daniell: bdaniell@uw.edu