MORE THAN RISK

Explaining opposition to large-scale infrastructure projects

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Locally unwanted land uses

Mobilization

www.solarnavigator.net

Warren Parsons, 2008

www.usbr.gov

www.entergy-nuclear.com

Comstock, Inc. 2000

www.cenlamedia.com

www.ec.europa.eu
Research question

What factors and processes shape variation in community mobilization around proposals for large-scale energy infrastructure projects?
Conceptual framework

- Facility siting proposal
- Assessment of:
  - Risks of not acting collectively
  - Political env't for collective action
  - Appropriation of existing groups/networks for action

- Mobilization:
  - Internal resources
    - Political opportunity
    - Threat
  - External resources
    - Social appropriation
    - Contentious

Institutional
Case locations

- Cherry Point Cogeneration (Whatcom County, WA)
- Cabrillo Port (Malibu/Oxnard, CA)
- Long Beach LNG Import (Long Beach, CA)
- Cotterel Wind (Cassia County, ID)
- Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumpel Storage (Riverside County, CA)
- Keyspan (Providence County, RI)
- Northeast Gateway (Essex County, MA)
- Crown Landing (Gloucester County, New Castle County 0E)
- Grand Gulf Nuclear (Claiborne County, MS)
- Cherry Point Cogeneration (Whatcom County, WA)
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fs/QCA methodology overview

Case 1
- Causal conditions
  - Risk / threat
  - Political opportunity
  - Community resources
  - Contextual factors
- Outcome conditions
  - Mobilization
  - Non-mobilization

Case 2

- Code each case individually across both causal and outcome conditions
- Enter all cases and scores in fs/QCA software
- Analyze for key “recipes” that explain outcomes of the cases
Results: Mobilization

No similar industry

- No economic hardship AND Civic capacity
  - Political opportunity
    - Malibu, Ventura, Solano
  - Experience with past proposal
    - Malibu, Ventura, New Castle

Similar industry

- Economic hardship AND Limited civic capacity
  - Experience with past proposal AND Political opportunity
    - Riverside
  - Economic hardship AND Limited civic capacity AND Limited political opportunity
    - Claiborne

Solution coverage = 0.87
Solution consistency = 0.65
Key findings

• Importance of examining the counterfactual case

• Community context shapes perceptions of risk / motivation

• Political opportunity & community resources provide ability

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