



Managing Conflict in Facility Siting

An International Comparison

Edited by

S. Hayden Lesbirel and Daigee Shaw



Managing Conflict in Facility Siting

*To Ysabel and Adrian and in memory of their loving
grandfather, Sidney Ernest Lesbirel*

To Showmei, May and Chenghao

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An International Comparison

Edited by

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Preface

The siting or development of unwanted facilities has emerged as a major policy problem in all democratic countries. It has become increasingly difficult to find places to store radioactive waste, locate power plants or new industrial facilities, and identify local communities willing to accept solid waste facilities. Over the past decade and a half, there have been a growing number of case studies of siting, principally in single country contexts, reflecting the importance of this issue as a policy problem. These analyses have provided important insights into the factors that command support for and opposition to siting projects and the impact of those factors on resolving conflicts in an effective manner.

Many of the papers included in this volume were selected from those presented at an International Workshop on Challenges and Issues in Facility Siting, held at the Institute of Economics, Academia Sinica, in Taiwan in January 1999. Several other papers were commissioned by the editors to make the context of the book more complete and to ensure coverage of a broad range of siting experience. Each paper went through a rigorous review process. The papers were carefully reviewed by the editors and external reviewers.

The Workshop was designed to capitalize on the experience of practitioners and researchers concerned with facility siting problems by linking descriptive analyses with prescriptive guidelines. The objective of the workshop was to examine the factors which influence siting decisions and explore ways to improve siting processes by investigating actual case studies in democratic countries. A key conclusion was that existing policy approaches have not been effective in reducing the transaction costs of siting and that there is a need for institutional change which can deal with the public goods nature of democratic governance.

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