

Proposed JFF Game Design

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The Governor, recently elected on a platform of clean energy, has announced a comprehensive state energy plan that includes wind power from offshore wind farms. Based on initial analyses of wind patterns, there are several locations in the north and south of the state that would be economically feasible to put a wind farm. The Governor has announced no preference for location and would like a set of criteria to help make the decision of where a wind facility should be sited along the state's coast. He has set a goal to site and begin construction of one offshore facility somewhere along the state coast before the end of his term. Given this timeline, he has instructed the state's Department of Environmental Quality to give him a list of suggested siting criteria before the end of the fiscal year.

In preparation for their report to the Governor, DEQ has launched a public involvement program. They held public meetings across the state, solicited written comments, and hired a neutral mediator to conduct a conflict assessment of potential stakeholders. Based on the public input and the mediator's conflict assessment, they have chosen a group of eight stakeholders meant to represent the broad array of interests to participate in a session to choose (and rank?) criteria that will be applied to the future siting decision. A DEQ representative will participate along with the following eight invited stakeholders:

- a northern coast resident,
- a southern coast resident,
- an interior urban resident living by a coal plant,
- a developer (with technical/engineering expertise),
- a federal permitting agency representative,
- a scientist (marine biology or geology?),
- a social scientist (economist?), and
- a representative from the local chapter of Clean Up America (a nationwide environmental group).

These stakeholders are familiar with each other already because of past interactions at public meetings. They are also aware of issues from reading the conflict assessment and other DEQ background documents. Because of the tight timeline given to them by the Governor, DEQ needs consensus on siting criteria very soon. If this group does not reach consensus in time for the Governor's upcoming press conference on the new state energy policy, he/she will decide with political advisors.

The group has two hours to deliberate (and rank the importance of??) a list of criteria, such as avian loss, improved air quality, economic impact (including tourism), visual impact, etc. Their discussion will be moderated by the neutral who conducted the conflict assessment and who was approved by the stakeholders to mediate their session.