

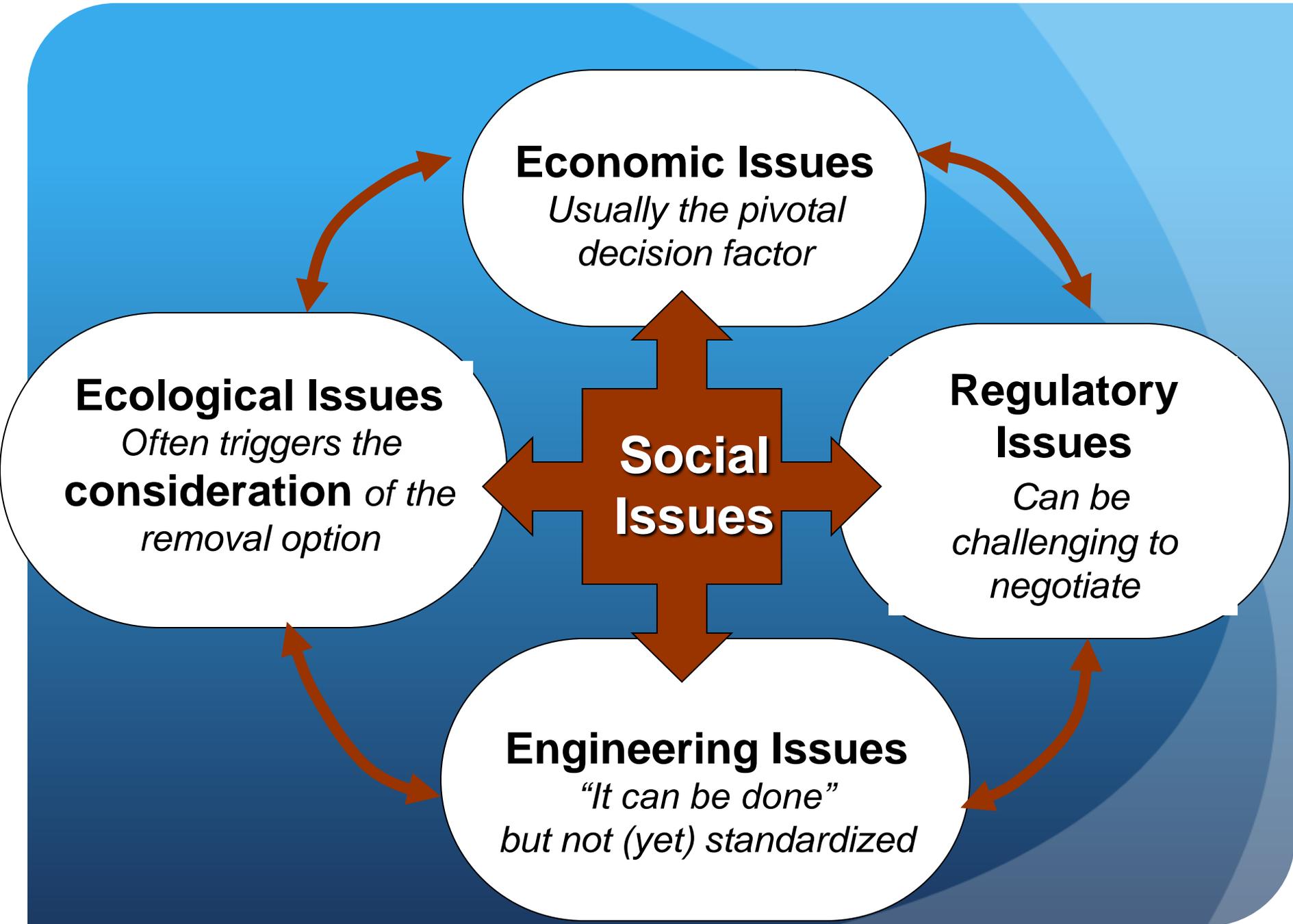
Social Issues of Dam Removal

Kim L. Greenwood
VNRC

Special thanks to Stephanie Lindloff at American Rivers

What to Expect

- Challenges of the social issues of dam removal.
- Role of social issues in dam removal: climate change & hydropower production: VNRC perspective



Common Issues

Social Perspectives on Dam Removal by Helen Sarakinos River Alliance of Wisconsin and Sara E. Johnson Principal, G&G Consulting

**Underestimating social issues
affects all phases of a project as
well as future projects (in same
community & beyond)**

When people oppose the removal, it may not be about the decision itself, but how the decision was made

Include in Social Issues

- Public safety
- Public use
- Alternatives

Include in Social Issues

- Flooding concerns
- Local economics
- Education

Johns River Dam Whitefield, NH



Actual impoundment



Photo Rendering *(by Stephanie Lindloff)*

Why do more than what the law
requires?

Because you want the dam to
come out.

Handling Risk & Uncertainty

Understanding Social Concerns

Information-based

Can be addressed through information gathering and education.

Value-based

May not be possible to reconcile - dam removal is a fundamental change to the site.

**These concerns are intertwined.
Public involvement helps tease them apart.**

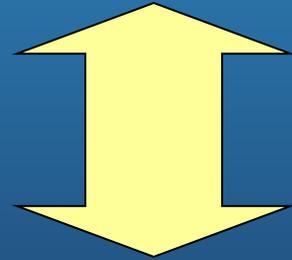
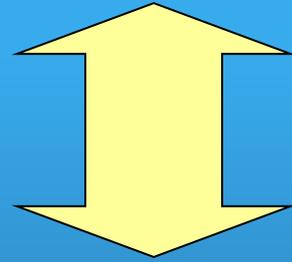


- Forests
- Sustainable Communities
- Energy
- Water

Vermont

- 1200 dams inventoried
- 85-ish generating electricity
- Hundreds that will never produce hydroelectric power

Climate Change “Purists”



River “Purists”

Environmentalists
vs.
Environmentalists

Priorities for Removal

- Not serving original purpose
- Aquatic resource impacts
- Safety hazard