

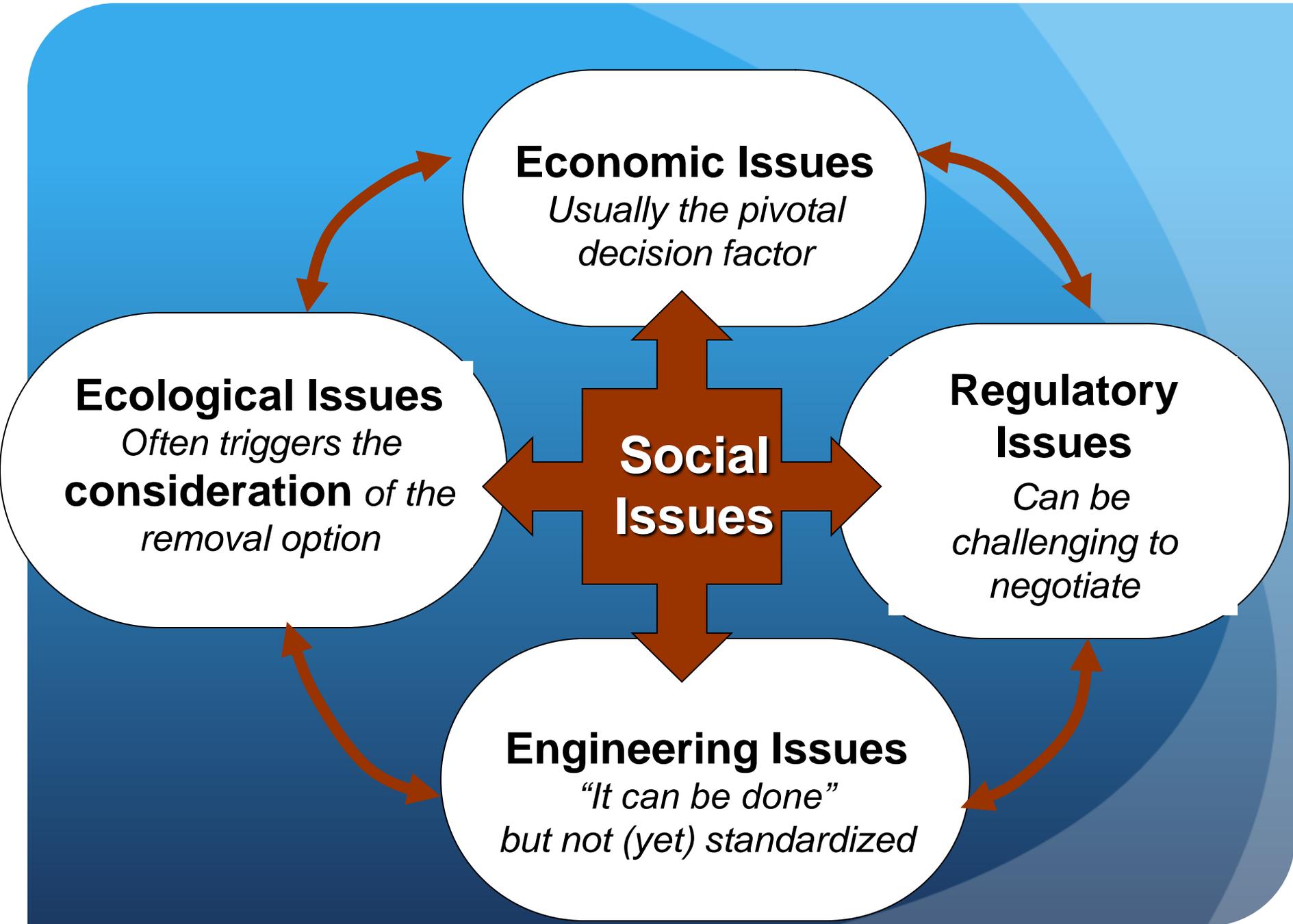
Social Issues of Dam Removal

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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.**

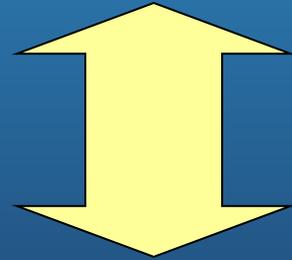
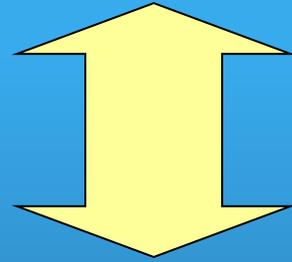


- Forests
- Sustainable Communities
- Energy
- Water

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