

Competing Interests and Engg Codes: A proposed plant will create 200 jobs in a depressed area, but the process will have to store a highly toxic vapor, posing a risk to public health. Should we build it?

Test in turn each of the five norms.

1. Does it offer a means of balancing worker/public safety against economic benefit to choose the “right” action?
2. Using this norm, do you see any means of building consensus?
3. If not, why can’t it facilitate consensus?

1. Kantianism: An action is right if the reason for the action is universally valid – for any reasoning person.

☐ Allows balance ☐ Facilitates consensus

Why can’t it facilitate consensus? _____

2. Utilitarianism: An action is right if- of all possible choices – it creates the most happiness in the world.

☐ Allows balance ☐ Facilitates consensus

Why can’t it facilitate consensus? _____

3. Humism: Right action is dictated by sentiment (feeling), and reason serves only to achieve that action.

☐ Allows balance ☐ Facilitates consensus

Why can’t it facilitate consensus? _____

4. Existentialism: An action is right for me when made in full, truthful awareness of myself and the circumstances.

☐ Allows balance ☐ Facilitates consensus

Why can’t it facilitate consensus? _____

5. Divine Command: Right action is dictated by commands handed down from God or a Prophet.

☐ Allows balance ☐ Facilitates consensus

Why can’t it facilitate consensus? _____