
University of Pennsylvania



Institute for Environmental Studies

presents

Angela Bednarek

Columbia Earth Institute
Columbia University

Dams and Decision-making: Integrating Socioeconomic and Ecological Considerations

Dams provide an important opportunity to gain clearer insights into the issues involved in incorporating socioeconomic and ecological considerations into decisions about the environment. This talk will focus on dam removal and environmental mitigation of the impacts of dams, which are two management options that attempt to balance the socioeconomic and ecological needs for rivers. While these management options have had a number of positive environmental benefits, an examination of Pennsylvania dam removal permits showed that although dam removal is occurring for a number of reasons, including environmental ones, it is usually done in response to socioeconomic concerns, such as dam deterioration, obsolescence or repair costs.

Angela Bednarek will also discuss how incorporating socioeconomic and ecological considerations into decisions about dams is often difficult because knowledge of the impacts of dams and how to best manage them is incomplete. Although there is no perfect solution, better quantification of the ecological and human responses to dam management options, increased willingness to test different decision-aiding tools, and better incorporation of stakeholder interests will help improve the decision-making about dams.

Date: Thursday, November 7, 2002

Time: **NOON - 1:30 pm**

Place: **Auditorium at Wistar Institute**

On Penn's campus: Spruce Street & Penn's 36th Street Walkway

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Direct questions to:

215-573-3164; ies_penn@sas.upenn.edu

<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/geology/ies>
