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**Public Policy Analysis and Planning**

**Assignment 2: Stakeholder Analysis**

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**Introduction**

Water pollution is one of the critical current issues of public policy as pollutants in the water through industrial wastages and personal care products’ wastages have largely increased. The pollution of waterways is the major issue for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to prevent high level of contamination in the purity of water on Earth. The current issue of public policy chosen from the New York Times and Newsweek is ‘Environmental Protection of Waterways’ in order to present argumentation analysis to state contending positions and underlying assumptions. In addition to this, after reading the chosen editorials on the current issue of waterways, plausibility and importance of the identified assumptions have been rated with respect to the four dimensions exhibited in figure 3.16. Lastly, the arguments that are the most plausible are mentioned.

1. **Argumentation Analysis:** Contending Position and Underlying Assumptions

*First Argument:* Contamination of drugs and other related pollutants in water is harming the environment and well-being of humans drastically.

**Position:** As per my own perspective, I favor this argument because contamination in the water is found at the extensive level due to off residues of pharmaceuticals (painkillers, antidepressants and insecticides) and other products like plastic bottles and polyethylene thrown in the waterways. Such leftovers in the waterways directly harm purity and inherent quality of water, and are harmful to the human (Dean, 2007).

**Underlying Assumptions:** On the basis of the editorial reading by Dean (2007) ‘Drugs are in the water. Does it Matter,’ underlying assumptions in support of the position are exhibited as below:

1.1 Increased rate of emerging contaminants in the waterways are found in the substances of pharmaceutical and personal care products that are flushed in the different waterways such as rivers and lakes (Dean, 2007).

1.2 Drainage of unused drugs and hazardous household products like pesticides, oil paints, and chemicals for cleaning purpose increases the dissolution of the drug in the water that matters highly for the human welfare (Dean, 2007).

1.3 In the environment, activities for the wastewater treatment and biodegradation are found at the lower level (Dean, 2007).

**2. Argument:** Implication of water regulations is a challenging task for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**Position:** My position in specific to the mentioned argument favors that environmental protection of waterways is not quite easy for the EPA due to the political support to the industries that causes problem for the EPA to defend such support that is against the water purity (Why the EPA struggles with Water regulation, 2010).

Underlying Assumptions: On the basis of the editorial reading from the Newsweek, “Why the EPA Struggles with water regulation (2010),” underlying assumptions in support of the position are exhibited as below:

2.1 Main struggle that the EPA faces for the initiative regarding the protection of waterways is posed by the big industries that are not strictly charged for dumps into waterways.

2.2 A huge differentiation in the waterways, major waterways and small waterways, as well as the less water regulation for the preservation of small waterways is a major issue for the EPA.

2.3 Different viewpoints of state officials cause the conflicting situations for the EPA to come with strict water regulations for the environmental protection of the waterways (Why the EPA struggles with Water regulation, 2010).

Rating and Plotting of Assumptions Related to Public Issue of Environmental Protection of Waterways  
As per the “Distribution of Warrant by Plausibility and Importance,” different underlying assumptions mentioned in the support of the state’s position for the first and second argument in relevance to the public issue of environmental protection of waterways are exhibited as below:

Low Plausibility

High Plausibility

Low Importance

High Importance

1.1

1.2

1.3

2.1

2.2

2.3

(Dunn, 2012)

Most Plausible Arguments and A rationale for Views

From the analysis, it is found that the most plausible argument is the first argument as this argument seems reasonable and believable in terms of dealing with the stated argument and position. It is because rating and plotting of assumptions stated under the argument one are exhibited in the quadrant of high plausibility and high importance. The waterways are polluted extensively by the disposal of pharmaceutical and personal care products. In the same way, unused drug and other products like pesticides also act as pollutants in the water that affect the purity of water qualities (Dean, 2007; Kenchington, Stocker, & Wood, 2012

The main stakeholders included in this policy with their respective of policy statements are given below:

**Environment Protection Authority**

Policy statement: Environment protection authority has overall responsibility of implementation of Environmental Protection of Waterways policy. The authority has statutory responsibilities with the burden of policy responsibility.

**Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs)**

Policy statement: Catchment management authorities have overall responsibility of securing areas for general public utility by implementing all the provisions of Environmental Protection of Waterways policy effectively. The authority has statutory responsibilities to secure areas for general public utility with the burden of policy responsibility.

**Regional Coastal Boards**

Policy statement: Regional Coastal Boards have all the responsibilities of removing and rehabilitating native vegetation for protecting water of rivers, lakes, streams and estuaries. These also have responsibility towards wetlands and coasts to protect areas and water. The boards have statutory responsibilities to secure waters for general public utility with the burden of policy responsibility.

**Catchment Management Council (CMC)**

Policy statement: Catchment Management Council has overall responsibility of development of landscape strategy to protect soil damage from use of waterways. It has responsibility of improving land management for use of general public and other governmental authorities. The council has statutory responsibilities to escape land from adverse impact of waterways with the burden of the policy responsibility.

**Coastal Council (CC)**

Policy statement: Coastal Council has overall responsibility of development of plants and animals in coastal area to support several recreational activities in order to protect the water and soil of coastal areas. It has responsibility of improving coastal land and water for use of the governmental authorities. The council has statutory responsibilities to develop land from adverse impact of waterways with the burden of the policy responsibility.

**Government Agencies**

Policy statement: Government agencies have responsibility of development of supportive laws and policies for effective implementation of the policy to protect the land and water from the adverse impact of waterways.

**Industries**

Policy statement: Industries have responsibility of developing strategies and plans to minimize the ill effects of their resultant pollutant particles. These should follow the norms and provisions of the policy for the effective implementation of policy in place.

**Conservation and Environment Groups**

Policy statement: Conservation and environment Groups have responsibility of general protection of natural environment, biodiversity, soil, wetland, and water areas. These should of aware of development of supportive measures for effective implementation of the policy to protect the land and water from the adverse impact of waterways.



The line graph flattens out after four stakeholders, which include Environment protection authority, Catchment management authorities (CMAs), Regional Coastal Boards, and Catchment Management Council (CMC) (Dunn, 2012).

**Conclusion**

On the basis of above discussion, it can be concluded that environmental protection waterways is crucial for governmental authorities and general public because of inclusion of soil, water, natural environment, and other resources for the usage of human welfare. The policy problems are crucial for the protection of land and water for human beings, animals, and plants and ecology welfare. The cumulative frequency graph indicates that there are four major stakeholders for the effective implementation of policy.

**References:**

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