

Joint Fact Finding And the Stubborn Policy Problem

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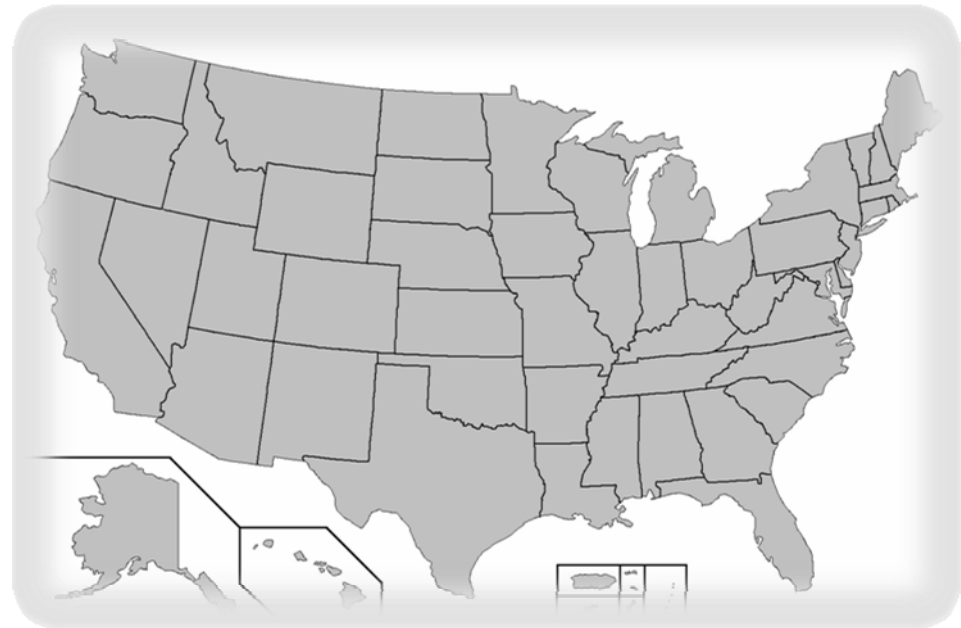
Today

- Talk about why JFF is an important addition for public consultation in policy making.
- Give you specific case examples.
- Think together about what our countries can learn from each other.



Some Stubborn, Persistent and Important Problems in the United States

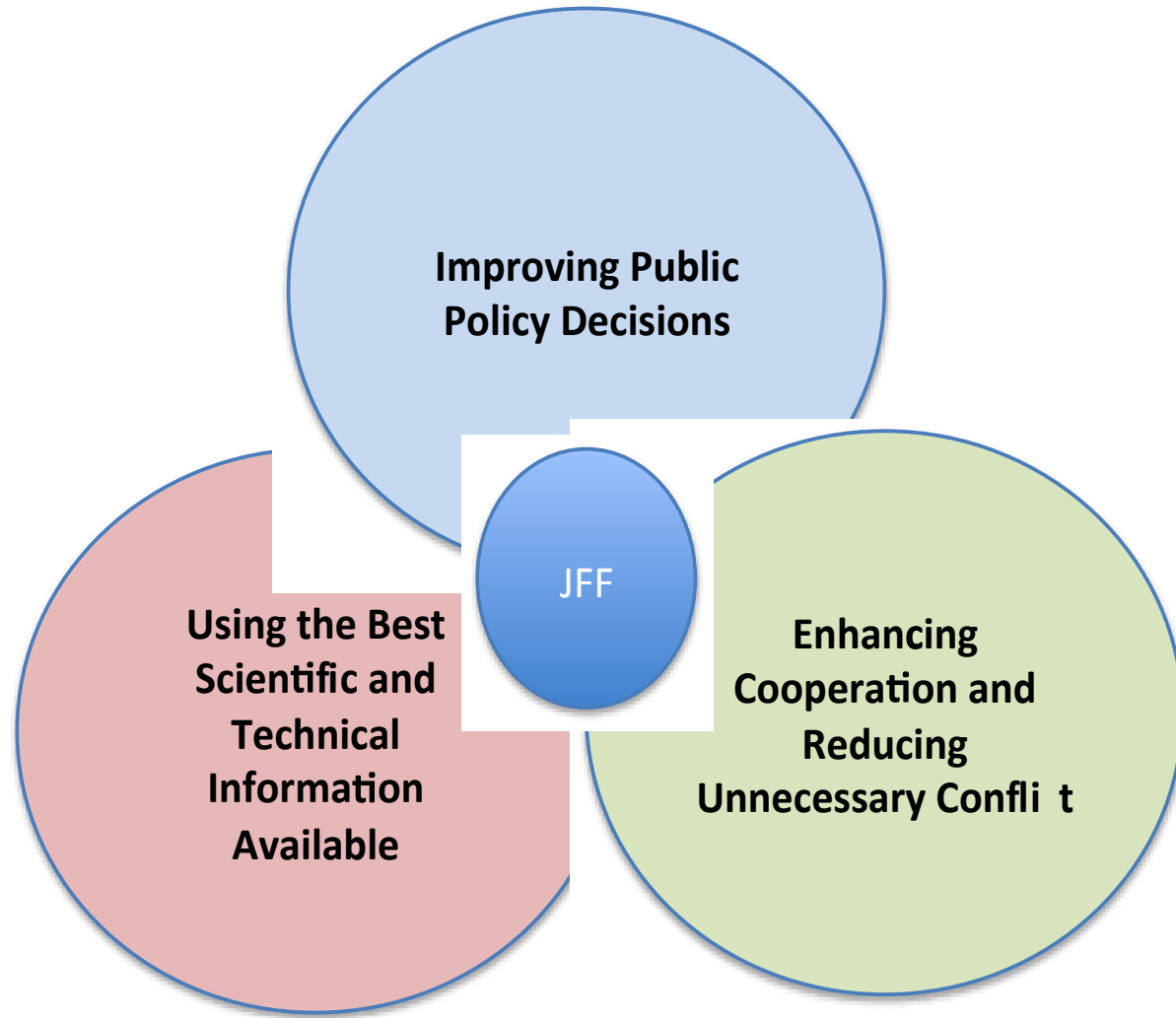
- Water and drought
- Energy and the transition to more renewable sources
- Pesticides and public health
- Genetically modified organisms
- Transportation investments
- Urban decongestion



Why We Need More Constructive And Collaborative Approaches

- Many stakeholders
- High levels of public conflict
- Science and fact intensive
- Local, national and international implications
- Major economic consequences
- Intergenerational impacts
- Politically difficult





The Challenge of Mediating “Fact” Intensive Problems

- Mistrust between scientists and lay people.
- Interdisciplinary silos.
- Science as a sword or shield.
- Beliefs often trump facts.
- Cognitive bias.



Mediated “JFF” by Many Names

- Independent Review Panels
- Technical Advisory Groups
- Stakeholder Panel Working Groups
- Study Groups
- Peer Review Meetings
- Stakeholder Panels
- Dialogues
- Science Advisory Committees
- Roundtables



A Growing List of Good Examples

1. Children's Health Protection – Washington
2. Storm Water Management - Virginia
3. Vaccine Safety – Washington
4. Water Sharing - Namibia
5. “Important Agricultural Lands” – Honolulu
6. Agricultural Water Measures – California
7. Fisheries, Communities and Wind – Japan
8. New Desalination Plant - California

Chinatown

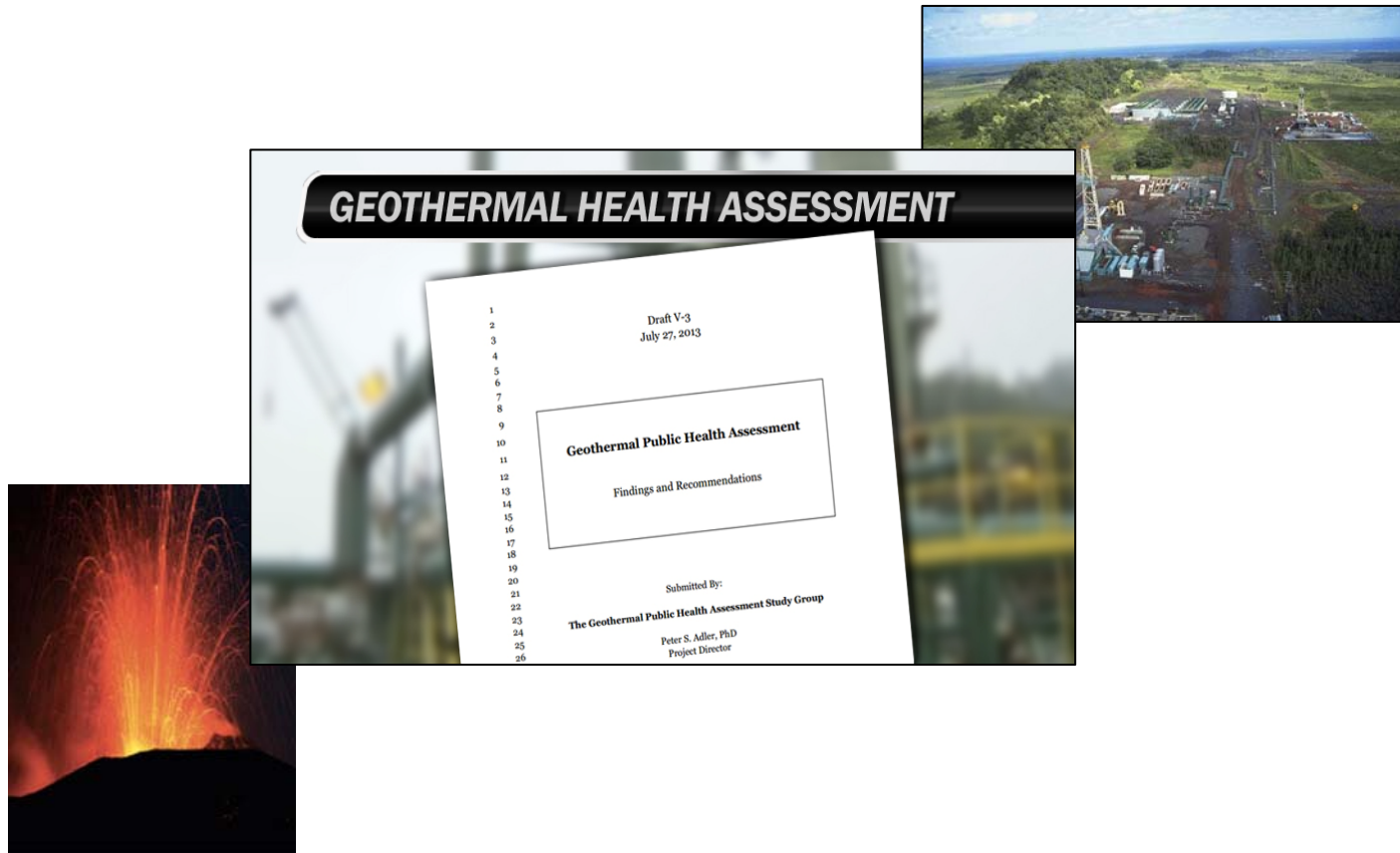
Should we limit festivals, alcohol and street closures?



Local Issues

Geothermal Energy

Are there negative health impacts?



Regional Issues

4th Generation Nuclear Power

What will the cost-per-kilowatt-hour be?



GMO & Pesticides

What pesticides are in use and with what effects ?



The Roadmap to Renewables

What are the costs to get to “green” and who pays?



Transit Oriented Development

Who decides what goes where and how?



1. Not a Panacea

Cannot fix all the shortcomings of how we manage public policies, the uses of science, and the complexity of reconciling different views.

BUT

Can add significantly to better decision-making if we can accelerate the update of JFF.



2. Adds to...Not replaces

Is a specialized form of consultation and public engagement.

A complement to and not a replacement of our legislative, judicial, and regulatory decision-making processes.



3. Has Utility

MORE USEFUL FOR

Sorting out “fact” centered problems, i.e. how many animals and plants are endangered; how will this new road affect drive times; at what levels do emissions become toxic; etc.

LESS USEFUL FOR

Sorting out “value” centered problems, i.e. which animals and plants should we prioritize for recovery; how will this new road affect our lifestyles; etc.

4. Has Many Different Uses

- Isolating specific factual questions are at the heart of public policy debates.
- Narrowing or resolving specific complex factual disagreements.
- Agreeing on the kinds of disciplines and expertise required to present evidence that will be respected by all sides.
- Identifying the specific scientific or technical expertise needed and commissioning specific research.
- Creating agreed upon estimates, forecasts and trends; more accurately describing cause and effect relationships; providing a pertinent summary of peer-reviewed literature.

5. Is Adaptive

- Can be a “stand-alone” process.
- Can be “embedded” as a phase of other collaboration processes.



A Checklist for Organizing a JFF

- ✓ High level political support
- ✓ A willingness to participate by key stakeholders and technical experts.
- ✓ Independent facilitation.
- ✓ Sufficient time for a process.
- ✓ Sufficient funding.

Thank You for this Invitation to Speak

