

**Environment and Development in Trinidad & Tobago:
Thoughts from a Practitioner**

First Southwest Energy Symposium 2011

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Need for *a clear process for making
development decisions & approving
projects*

Proposed Approach: Joint Fact Finding
developed as a response to the common
problem of “dueling experts” in policy making.

Joint Fact Finding: How it Works

In a well-crafted joint fact-finding process, the stakeholders are able to work jointly to:

- Frame or define the scientific/technical questions to be answered;
- Share available data so that everyone is (approximately) on a level playing field with regard to knowing the facts of the programme, policy or project;
- Identify the attributes of and select qualified experts and/or resource persons and nominate individuals to assist the group;

Joint Fact Finding: How it Works Cont'd

Joint fact-finding therefore rests on a few key ideas.

- Rather than withholding information for strategic advantage, the interested parties pool relevant information.
- Joint fact finding encourages face-to-face dialogue between technical experts, decision makers and other key stakeholders. Usually, a nonpartisan facilitator or mediator assists in managing this dialogue.
- The process places considerable emphasis on “translating” (in its richest sense) technical information—text, graphics videos, web-based presentations—into a form that is accessible to all participants.
- Although joint fact finding is geared to building consensus, it tries clearly to “map” areas of scientific agreement and to narrow areas of disagreement and uncertainty.
- It uses a single text record to sum up the results of the joint fact- finding process.

Joint Fact Finding: How it Works

Levels and Forms of Public Involvement

Level	Form of Involvement
Informing	One way flow of information from the proponent to the public
Consulting	Two way flow of information between the proponent and the public with opportunities for the public to express views on the proposal
Participating	Interactive exchange between the proponent and the public encompassing shared analysis and agenda setting and the development of understood and agreed positions on the proposal and its impacts
Negotiating	Face to face discussion between the proponent and key stakeholders to build consensus and reach a mutually acceptable resolution of issues, for example on a package of impact mitigation and compensation measures.

Adapted from Bass et al (1995) and cited online at:
http://eia.unu.edu/course/?page_id=129

What Did (Should) We Learn?

Process, process, process

Quality

Risk Management (Communication)

Moving Forward

- Key Questions to be considered:
 - How would you characterise the local situation?
 - What are the opportunities & barriers?
 - What would make your company act?
 - What is your company already doing? Is it measurable?
 - What are the most promising technologies for new investment?
 - How do we decide?

EE & RE Opportunities Matter

- What Role for T&T, Generally?
- What Role for T&T Energy Sector?
- Opportunities
- Constraints