

Background Info – Landowner

It turns out that you're really not that interested in fishing, so during the three years you've owned the land, you haven't paid that much attention to the pond. You thought it was great that the local high school wanted to use the pond for school projects, so you let them use it. There have been a couple things that concerned you over the years. At about the same time that you bought the land, Acme Chemicals started construction on a plant not too far from your land. There was a long and arduous permitting process, and Acme Chemicals assured everyone that their manufacturing process would not harm the local environment. Several of your close friends have taken jobs there, and everything they tell you about the plant is good, although one of your friends (who always seems to be suspicious of everything) thinks there is something going on that the plant management is not telling everyone about. Actually, you were more worried about the property on the other side of you, which used to be a farm growing crops, but converted to poultry production just before you bought the land. At first you were worried about the smell, since your friends kept telling you chicken farms are stinky. There hasn't been any bad smells, but you have noticed that where there used to be fields lush with crops, there now appears to be open fields of mostly exposed dirt, and you've wondered whether all that dirt was going to start running off when it rains.

Background Info – Environmentalist

In addition to your duties as the Biology teacher at the local high school, you are also the "Environmental Advisor" to the town's mayor. You were instrumental in working with the people from Acme Chemical to make sure all their EPA permits were correct and in order, and in interpreting all the scientific information for the mayor and town council. While everything seemed to be in order at the time, you were always suspicious of the Acme people, and never really believed that they could manufacture chemicals without producing some type of harmful emissions or waste. However, the plant was going to bring many jobs and lots of tax revenue to the town, so you didn't push too hard. You're having second thoughts now, since the last time you were visiting your uncle's new poultry farm, which happens to be at a slightly higher elevation so you can see down into the plant complex (using binoculars doesn't count as "spying", does it?), you thought you saw something leaking from a pipe onto the ground. You weren't too upset about not being able to prevent construction of the plant, though. Just before the plant opened, you played a role in stopping the construction of a shopping center that would have wiped out the local population of a rare species of snapping turtle.

Background Info – Acme Chemicals rep

You were relieved when the mayor asked Acme to have a representative from the plant be in this study group, especially after you learned that the mayor's "Environmental Advisor" was going to be in the group. That person got the construction of a shopping center blocked just before Acme announced the construction of the plant. And over what? Some silly turtle that no one but the tree huggers care about. Someone has to make sure that environmentalist keeps an open mind. You have worked on three other Acme plant openings, and in your experience, even though the local people are excited about new jobs and higher tax revenue, there's always a chance that they'll find a reason to turn on you and try to shut the plant down. You feel like Acme already did so much during the permitting phase, you would really like to steer this away from the Acme plant towards anything else. After all, didn't Acme donate large amounts of one of their insecticides during the West Nile Virus scare a few years ago so the town could control the mosquito population? What about that new poultry farm? There was a little bit of fuss when that farmer announced his plans, but the town didn't insist on a complete environmental impact study like they did for the plant.