ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY UNDER UNCERTAINTY: CASE-STUDIES OF CLAIMS-MAKING

J. EYLES

Director, McMaster Institute of Environment and Health, McMaster University, BSB B150, Hamilton, Ontario, L8S 4K1, Canada

ABSTRACT

This paper examines the tensions between science and its practical implimentation through two case-studies of environmental policy making concerning ozone depletion, skin cancer and sun safety policy and tritium drinking water and cancer. It begins by outlining differences between the ideal, rational model of decision-making and that which operates in civil society. It turns to elucidate the nature of claims-making in environmental policy before briefly describing the two cases. It concludes by pointing to those elements of decision-making (context, contingency, public attention, interests and value) that the claims-making approach helps to clarify.