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The Development of the Role of Science in Environmental Protection Law

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Abstract

Science has an important role in enacting, implementing, and enforcing environmental law. Science can be used to restore the public confidence in the agency and provide good rational for its decisions. However, environmental issues are interdisciplinary in character and raise a variety of legal, social, economic, and ethical questions. These conflicts are not easy to be resolved only by science.

In the 1960s, Rachel Carson had questioned the government's manipulation of science to support the toxicological safety of pesticides, which therefore launched the beginning of the environmental movement in U.S. Even today, the continuing debate on regulatory reform has not yet reached consensus on how governmental institutions and procedures should be structured to make decisions better and more broadly acceptable for environmental protection.

When science has been playing more important and complicated role in decision-making, what should we do to right the wrongs of the pasts and better environmental protection for our future? In this paper, I would like to discuss the role

science plays in environmental protection and propose suggestions for its future development. As I believe, this study focusing on U.S. legal perspective will be definitely helpful for our environmental protection in Taiwan.

Keywords: Scientific Uncertainty, Variability, Risk Assessment,
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