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Introduction

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Introduction

Thomas G. Field, Jr.*

Welcome

This is a double welcome: first, to a new interdisciplinary quarterly, and, second, to the first two issues. Taking them in reverse order, this and the next issue consist primarily of papers presented at a [very well received] conference entitled **Public Participation in Risk Management: Ethics, Science & Law** which was held in Concord about a year ago — with financial assistance from the New Hampshire Humanities Council and the Administrative Conference of the United States.

As, for the journal itself, while future issues will continue to deal with attempts to elaborate and resolve normative issues involved in determining the acceptability of risk, we hope to attract a broad range of papers. We plan to publish essays and research reports — both empirical and library based — as well as letters, announcements and book reviews,¹ concerned with reducing net risk² and otherwise treating problems *common to* consumer, environmental, medical, and occupational regulation — as well as to tort litigation. In short, we seek papers with the widest potential impact for human risk management expecting them to be written by a broad professional cross section,

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¹ Intended book reviews in this issue were dropped for lack of space.

² We plan at least one symposium issue to dealing with that topic. Possible contributors are urged to write for more information.

including, e.g., physical and social scientists, economists, medical personnel, engineers and philosophers as well as lawyers.³ More importantly, we will do our best to insure that RISK will be understandable to such people as well as to reasonably well educated generalists. We hope that our readers are satisfied by the extent to which we have met those goals.⁴

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the sponsors of the aforementioned conference and to conferees who both provided publishable papers and saw fit to entrust their work to a new journal. Thanks are also due to those who have offered encouragement and support, e.g., by furnishing mailing lists, publishing announcements of pending publication, and otherwise spreading the word through various professional networks.⁵ We are grateful, too, to people and institutions who have subscribed to our new journal, sight unseen.⁶

Finally, I would like to thank Kristin S. Shrader-Frechette, Robert M. Viles, the Dean of Franklin Pierce, and Carol Ruh. Without their help and encouragement, *RISK: Issues in Health & Safety* would never have seen the light of day.

³ Persons interested in submitting manuscripts for future issues should write for authors' guidelines as indicated at the front of this issue.

⁴ Other goals are to building editorial advisory and peer review groups and to seek listings commensurate to its disciplinary scope. Their pursuit will be facilitated with publication of this issue.

⁵ In many cases, we have become indirectly aware of such help only through subscription and submission inquiries.

⁶ Those who have not yet subscribed will find a form on the inside back cover.