

1.011 Project Evaluation

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Assignment 1 “The Panama Canal”

Objectives:

- a. Appreciate the complexity and historical context of complex CEE projects
- b. Identify factors leading to success or failure of complex CEE projects

Assigned: February 2, 2005

Due: February 9, 2005

This case gives an overview of a long series of projects that sought to provide a better transportation route across the Isthmus of Panama. Please read this case and prepare to discuss the following questions about each of these major projects:

1. What were the objectives?
2. What were the major problems or issues?
3. What were the major costs and benefits and how were they evaluated?
4. What were the results of the project? How successful were they?
5. What are the major concerns and possible projects for the future?

Write a 1-2 page paper discussing how and why the financial, social, or the environmental issues changed over time and how they affected the design, construction, and operation of transportation between the oceans. (Choose just one set of issues: financial, social or environmental.)