Administrative Rationalism

“Command & Control Regulation”
Managerial Model

- Environmental problems are fundamentally "technical in nature"
  - problems can be segmented and dealt with piecemeal: air, water, solid waste, pesticides, land use, endangered species, etc.

- We can distinguish between technical and political issues in policy-making

- A professionalized bureaucracy will be politically neutral and produce the best public policy decisions
  - Based on scientific problem-solving
Forms of Government Action

- Markets
- Information
- Laws
- Services
- Rules
- Rights

Do Nothing
Command & Control Regulation

- Industry = polluting enemy
- Government must protect the public
- Government agencies are captured by industry
  - Congress to create laws mandating action
    - Create legal mechanisms to ensure enforcement
  - Create a new agency dedicated to the environment
“Command & Control” Regulation

- Government sets standards
  - Performance & technological standards
    - There are “safe” levels of pollutants & environmental damage
- Government compels compliance via law
  - Non-compliance is a crime
- Government monitors compliance
- Government enforces rules
National Environmental Policy Act (1969)

- All Federal agencies must submit EIS
  - Scientific-technical review of projects
  - Allows legal challenges for compliance

- Creates CEQ
  - 3 member panel appointed by President