

# Energy Supply, Risk and Justice: Regulatory Strategies for an Era of Limited Trust

EPRG Working Paper 0807

**John Ash**

Regulatory organisations responsible for implementing safety in the civil energy sector must address three key issues: the risk tolerance of the community, the methodology used to measure and enforce risk levels, and the resources available to the regulatory agency. Attempts to balance these factors have often focussed on attempting to align public perceptions of risk with those of government personnel, technical specialists and industry. This “information deficit” approach has been largely unsuccessful because the critical shortfall has not been one of knowledge, but of trust. Trust in this context consists largely in an expectation of just treatment by others. To retain legitimacy, any government must act with justice, which may be seen as having two related elements – distributive and retributive. This paper explores novel approaches to the achievement of both aspects of justice in order better to ensure the just apportionment of risk in energy safety regulation.

Contact                      jsa1003@cam.ac.uk  
Publication                In publication  
Financial Support        EPRG, TSEC3

