Case Presentation Template –
For the Analysis Team

• Outline the facts
• Describe the causes of the disaster
  – Technical problems & flaws
  – Managerial issues
  – Ethical choices & decisions
• Identify the central ethical issue, and analyze it in terms of concepts and theories of ethics
Case Presentation Template –
For the Alternatives Team

• Summarize the causes of the disaster as presented by the Analysis Team

• Describe alternative approaches
  – A different design that is free from problems & flaws
  – A better management process
  – Choices & decisions that are more ethical

• Demonstrate a resolution of the central ethical issue in the case via concepts and theories of ethics
Applicable Ethical Concepts & Theories

- Utilitarianism
- Ethical analysis in terms of rights
- Kant’s ethical tests of reversibility & universalizability
- Rawl’s theory of justice
- The theories about consumer protection: contract theory, due process theory, social costs theory
- Various codes of professional ethics
- Various sets of ethics criteria – see next two slides
Possible Ethics Criteria – Set 1

- **Harm test**: Does this option do less harm than the alternatives?
- **Publicity test**: Would I want my choice of this option published in the newspaper? Would I want my Grandma to know?
- **Defensibility test**: Could I defend this choice of option before a committee of peers, or a Congressional committee, without appearing self-serving?
- **Reversibility test**: Would I still think this choice of option was good if it were applied to me instead of others, especially if some of the effects are adverse?
- **Colleague test**: What might my profession’s governing board or ethics committee say about this option?
- **Organization test**: What does my organization’s ethics officer or legal counsel say about this?
- **Virtue test**: Would a virtuous person do this? What kind of person does this? What kind of person would I become if I did this kind of thing all the time?

From Michael Davis, IIT
Possible Ethics Criteria – Set 2

• Is it **honorable**? -- Is there anyone from whom you would like to hide the action?
• Is it **honest**? -- Does it violate any agreement, actual or implied, or otherwise betray a trust?
• Does it avoid the possibility of a **conflict of interest**? -- Are there other considerations that might bias your judgment?
• Is it within your area of **competence**? -- Is it possible that your best effort will not be adequate?
• Is it **fair**? -- Is it detrimental to the legitimate interests of others?
• Is it **considerate**? -- Will it violate confidentiality or privacy, or otherwise harm anyone or anything?
• Is it **conservative**? -- Does it unnecessarily squander time or other valuable resources?

From Parker, et. al, *Ethical Conflicts in Information and Computer Science, Technology, & Business*