**Case Study 14: Professional or Personal Ethics?**

An issues for us concerning engineering and the environment arises when engineering activity may have an environmental impact but one that does not directly raise issues of human health.

For instance, suppose you are asked to participate in the design of a dam that will destroy a section of "wild river" and flood thousands of acres of farmland. Or perhaps you are employed to design a condominium project that will be built in a wetlands area.

In both cases, you may be concerned about the destruction of a natural resource, the depletion of that resource, or the destruction of plant or non-human animal species that will result from an engineering project. But if you do object to participating in either project should you do so as an engineer or as a concerned citizen?

**Ask yourself:**

1) Should the objection to environmental degradation not involving dangers to human health be a matter of professional ethics or personal ethics?

2) If you did want to argue that your objection could be made from a professional viewpoint, how could you persuade me that your objection was justifiable?