Chapter 6 Discussion Questions

Page 156 #5

The way to approach this problem that leads to the least potential loss would be to hire Bryant and have a second engineer either working with Bryant or just as a backup. This would mean that should Bryant need to leave for any reason, there would be no issue, because there would be another engineer familiar enough with the project to run it through to completion. This also prevents upsetting Bryant, because she is still to work the job, and she should be able to recognize the fact that a second engineer is an important safety measure. It also may relieve some of the stress on her. This situation is really the 'best of both worlds,' because it dramatically reduces the chances of any crises, and does not increase the cost of the project substantially compared to the massive project cost.

There isn't really any ethical dilemma being faced in these circumstances. It is more of a business or relationship issue. The goal of the company is to reduce the risk of any major losses, and the easiest way to do this is to hire two engineers. This may be more expensive because of the salaries of both engineers, but it is cheaper if you compare it to the costs of a delay or the cost of a large number of employees quitting, especially ones so experienced in a highly specialized field. An eight month leave is an important thing to factor into a project, especially when it starts right around the last parts of a project. It would be unethical if the company did not properly prepare for any troubles the leave may cause, and to attempt to blame those issues on Bryant. It is important to consider all the factors of a team, especially when working on such a large project, like an environmental testing group.