The Half-Life of Policy Rationales

How New Technology Affects Old Policy Issues

EDITED BY

Fred E. Foldvary AND Daniel B. Klein

A CATO INSTITUTE BOOK



2003

Contents

	Acknowledgments	ix
	Introduction: The Half-Life of Policy Rationales: How New Technology Affects Old Policy Issues Fred E. Foldvary and Daniel B. Klein	1
ART	Metering, Excluding, and Charging	19
1	Technology, Marine Conservation, and Fisheries Management Michael De Alessi	21
2	The Lighthouse as a Private-Sector Collective Good Fred E. Foldvary	38
3	Motorway Financing and Provision: Technology Favors a New Approach Peter Samuel	47
4	Buying Time at the Curb Donald C. Shoup	60
5	Fencing the Airshed: Using Remote Sensing to Police Auto Emissions Daniel B. Klein	86
ART	I I Quality Assurance and Consumer Protection	107
6	Technology and the Case for Free Banking David Friedman and Kerry Macintosh	109

7	Consumer Protection Regulation and Information on the Internet John C. Moorhouse	125
8	Medical Licensing: Existing Public Policy and Technological Change Shirley V. Svorny	144
PART	111 Natural Monopoly?	159
9	Technology and Electricity: Overcoming the Umbilical Mentality Alvin Lowi Jr. and Clyde Wayne Crews Jr.	161
10	Avoiding the Grid: Technology and the Decentralization of Water Alvin Lowi Jr.	184
11	Technological Change and the Case for Government Intervention in Postal Services Rick Geddes	208
PART	ı v Other Areas of Policy	225
12	The Entrepreneurial Community in Light of Advancing Business Practices and Technologies Spencer Heath MacCallum	227
13	Technology and the Protection of Endangered Species Richard L. Stroup and Jane S. Shaw	243
	About the Contributors	257
	Index	263

Acknowledgments

Early in the process, Jim Koch, director of the Center for Science, Technology, and Society (CSTS) at Santa Clara University (SCU), warmed up to the idea of writing this volume. CSTS funded the conference at SCU in February 2000, "Technological Advance and the Changing Context of Public Policy Justification," at which the evolving set of contributors gathered. The conference was crucial in making connections and achieving a common focus on the intended themes. The editors are grateful to CSTS for that support, made at the most challenging part of the process: the beginning.

We also wish to thank Santa Clara University for the university grant used to hire Jock Doubleday for a preliminary round of fine copy editing. We thank Wayne Crews for shepherding the manuscript through the submission process and Bihn Chen at SCU for formatting the text.