

Workshop on Risks of Unconventional Shale Gas Development

National Research Council

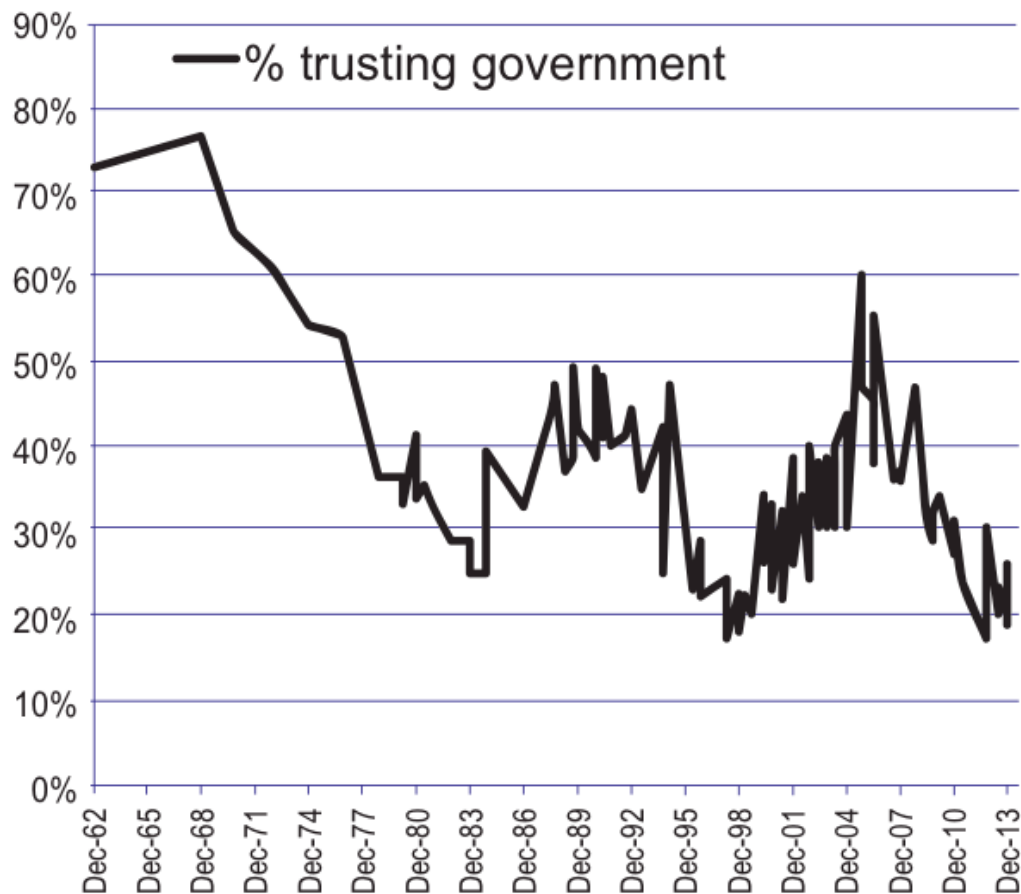
May 31, 2013

Roger E. Kasperson

Clark University



How Much Of The Time Do You Think You Can Trust The Government In Washington To Do What Is Right?



Sources: Trend in Percentages shown for summed values of “just about always” and “most of the time” (other categories: “some of the time,” “never,” “don’t know” or “refused”). Data from: <http://people-press.org/trust/>. Data compiled by: Pew Research Center, National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times, and CNN Polls. From 1976-2010 the trend line represents a three-survey moving average.

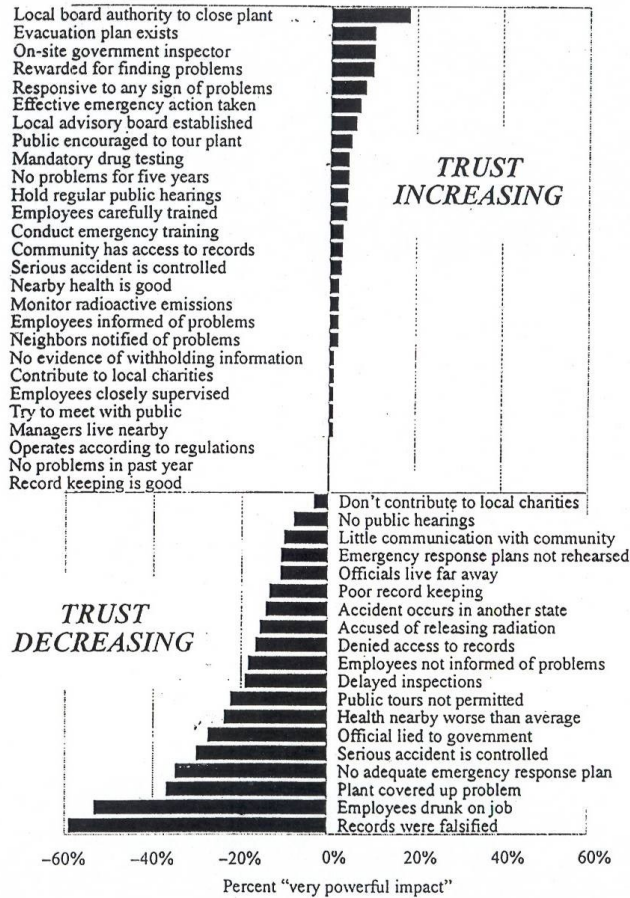


Figure 12. Differential impact of trust-increasing and trust-decreasing events. Note: only percentages of Category 7 ratings (very powerful impact) are shown here. Source: Slovic (1993).



SOCIAL TRUST— A PRECIOUS RESOURCE

- Over The Past 25 Years, Federal Agencies, Congress, and Corporations Have Lost The Trust of the Principal Stakeholders and Publics
- Social Trust Once Lost Is Not Easily Regained and So Any New Program Must Proceed Under Conditions of High Social Distrust
- The Loss of Trust is Systemic Across Social Institutions in The U.S.

SOCIAL TRUST— A PRECIOUS RESOURCE (cont.)

- Where Those Bearing Risks Lack Trust In Those Making Decisions, They Demand A Greater Role In Decision Making.
- The Interaction Among A Highly Dreaded Hazard, Large Uncertainties, And Low Social Trust Creates Unusually Difficult Management And Regulatory Challenges.