



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Coimbatore-35.

An Autonomous Institution

**Accredited by NBA – AICTE and Accredited by NAAC – UGC with ‘A++’ Grade Approved by AICTE, New Delhi &
Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai**

COURSE NAME : 19GET201 PROFESSIONAL ETHICS & HUMAN VALUES

IV YEAR/ VII SEMESTER

UNIT – II ENGINEERING AS SOCIAL EXPERIMENTATION

TOPIC: Case Studies



Case Studies

- **Engineering ethics is often times best explained through the use of case studies.**
- **Case studies allow examples of good and bad decision making in a real world context.**



Department of Mechanical Engineering, The Ohio State University

Sl. #17* These case studies have been selected from among the various rulings of the NSPE Board of Ethical Review. Ref: <http://onlineethics.org>



The Boston "Big Dig" (1991–2007)

Background: The Central Artery/Tunnel Project, known as the "Big Dig," was a massive infrastructure project in Boston that rerouted the city's main highway into a 3.5-mile tunnel. The project was plagued by cost overruns, design flaws, leaks, and delays.

Social Experimentation Aspect: The Big Dig was an experiment in urban planning and large-scale civil engineering, testing new construction techniques and materials in a highly complex urban environment.



Ethical Considerations: The project raised ethical questions about transparency, accountability, and the responsible use of public funds. Issues like corruption, poor project management, and inadequate oversight were central to the ethical challenges faced.

Outcome: Despite its challenges, the Big Dig significantly improved traffic flow in Boston. The project led to reforms in public infrastructure projects, including better oversight and accountability measures.

