

What you should notice about these two system diagrams is some huge difference in terms of what results when you describe the same system from two very different perspectives and two very different purposes.

One, I asked you to describe it as representative from Amec and De Beers. Amec is the consulting company that was undertaking the environmental assessment for De Beers. Again, here the purpose was to ensure that a profitable mine was produced and that there was return on investment for the shareholders, which is quite a reasonable purpose for a system description and for an environmental assessment.

The other perspective was from the Chief and Council of the Fort Albany First Nation, who unfortunately had very little experience with this kind of development on this scale, as it just hasn't been this kind of development in their territory and very little experience with environmental assessment process. Really, when they were talking about purpose, it was to make sure that their community, effectively, was treated well in this process and that it wasn't just another step in 450 or 500 years of colonization.

So what I'm hoping you'll see is the importance of perspective and purpose when you're drawing or developing any kind of system description and that there is equal value and insight to be gained in both of these perspectives.

In fact, when you start to bring them together, you start to see the value in highlighting this difference, and you can start to see how you might actually bring these two perspectives together or why there might be conflict in these kinds of context.