

CHAPTER 10	Investigation 10.D: Fuelling Thermal Power Plants Answer Key	BLM 10.3.2A
ANSWER KEY		

### Answers to Opinions and Recommendations

1. (a) You will likely come to the conclusion that natural gas is a better fuel than coal to use in a power plant, since it is both cleaner and causes less environmental damage when recovered. If you look deeper into the issue, you will note that a significant economic investment has been made in coal, and if that were not continued, jobs would be lost and retrofitting of existing power plants would have to be undertaken.
- (b) It is unlikely that Alberta would commit to one fuel or the other given that there are power plants in operation using both fuels. While you might suggest that all of the power plants should switch to natural gas, regardless of the economic impact, it is unlikely that a power plant fitted to burn coal would be refit for natural gas unless the economic benefits outweighed the costs.
- (c) You should look at other groups' plans and remark on ideas that other groups looked at that you did not.