

Name: _____

Date: _____

Consider This: City's Solution to Excessive SO₂ Levels

Imagine you live in a medium-sized Ohio or Indiana city faced with a problem of excessive sulfur dioxide in the local air, in violation of state and federal regulations. The source of the problem is the local city-owned electric power utility that burns high-sulfur coal obtained within the state. The three choices being considered by the city to rectify the situation include the following:

Group One: You are assigned the option of purchasing low-sulfur coal from outside the state. Prepare a presentation for the City Council outlining your position. Include in your presentation information on both the environmental and economic ramifications of your position for the community.

Group Two: You are assigned the option of installing expensive scrubbers on the electric power plant's smokestack. Prepare a presentation for the City Council outlining your position. Include in your presentation information on both the environmental and economic ramifications of your position for the community.

Group Three: You are assigned the option of building a taller smokestack. The present smokestack is 150 feet tall. A smokestack of at least 300 feet would distribute the pollution from the power plant at a high enough altitude that prevailing winds would move it to another geographic location, thus improving the local air quality. Prepare a presentation for the City Council outlining your position. Include in your presentation information on both the environmental and economic ramifications of your position for the community.