



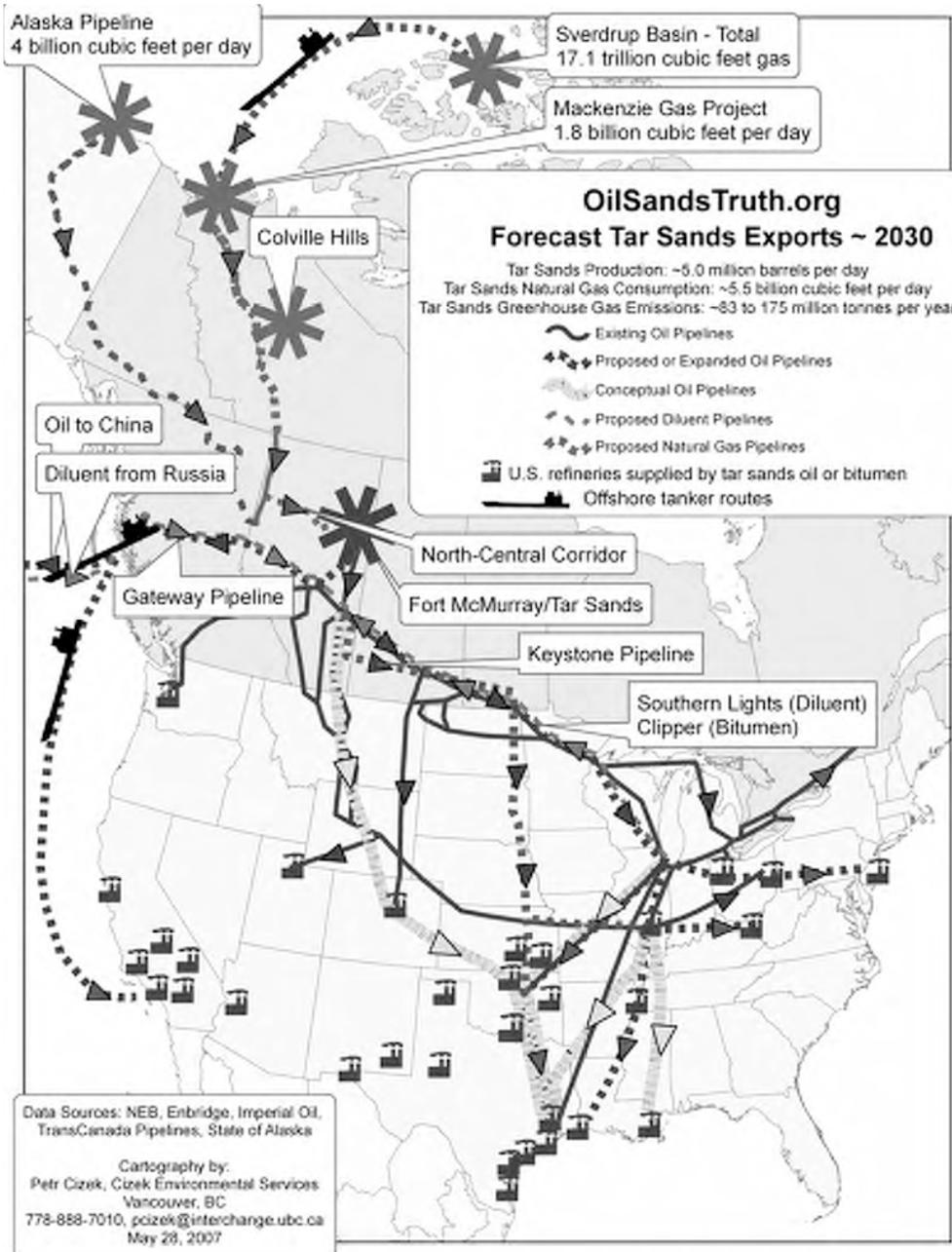
TAR SANDS SHOWDOWN – INFRASTRUCTURE

- The majority of the Canada's tar sands are located in Alberta. Each year the Alberta Energy and Utility Board processes more than 20,000 applications for new wells, pipelines, upgraders, refineries and other related infrastructure.
- There are more than sixty-nine tar sands projects under way and many more on the drawing boards for the next ten years. These projects involve either open-pit mining or in-situ production, as well as upgrader facilities.
- North America is quickly becoming a disaster area of extraction sites, upgraders, refineries, and pipelines. A map on the flip-side illustrates the infrastructure that will be built for the tar sands by 2030.
- Companies such as Syncrude and Suncor have their own upgraders on site near their strip-mining and in-situ operations. However, much of the increase in the production of tar sands crude will take place in facilities planned for construction northeast of Edmonton. As many as nine upgrading facilities are to be built along the North Saskatchewan River in the counties of Strathcona, Sturgeon and Lamont. Now called "Upgrader Alley," this is expected to be the core of Alberta's industrial heartland.
- There are also refineries in the US, and Canada (3 in Sarnia) which accept and refine tar sands crude, a process that results in much more pollution than conventional oil.
- Most of the heavy crude from the tar sands is transported in upgraded form to the US where it is refined and sold. Companies such as British Petroleum and ConocoPhillips, have made major investments in developing special refining capacities in the US for this heavy crude. BP, is spending 3 billion dollars to reconfigure its refinery in Whiting, Indiana, so that it can refine the heavy crude.
- A report released in 2008 by the Munk Centre in Toronto exposed concerns that massive refinery expansions for tar sands in the Great Lakes region would affect both water quality and quantity.
- There are a total of 17 major refinery expansions planned around the Great Lakes, with a total investment of more than \$31 billion (US).
- Even if all the projects are not approved, the combined damage of even a few could seriously affect wetlands, increase the amount of toxic air emissions, lead to acid rain, and huge increases in greenhouse gas emissions. They could also pose a serious concern for human health of communities accessing the Great Lakes for their water source.
- The infrastructure has been laid for the tar sands industry to extract, produce, deliver and refine crude oil to fuel the US. If the production plans for the major corporate players involved in strip mining and in-situ production of tar sands crude for export come to fruition, as scheduled, then they will be well on their way to meeting the five-fold increase in production called for by the SPP (for more on the SPP, see Energy Security Fact-sheet).
- To combat the work of activists and organizations, The Alberta Government is currently spending \$25 million on a PR campaign to clean up the image of the tar sands to continue to market it to the United States. At home and abroad, the tar sands are getting a "dirty" reputation.
- As affected and ally communities, we need to make our government and the general public aware of how our region is affected. If you live in Sarnia you are exposed to a Suncor refinery and two other smaller refineries. If you live near the Great Lakes, or your municipality uses the Great Lakes for your tap water, you are affected. Action needs to be taken stop tar sands expansion.

For more information, or to get involved visit <http://www.tarsandswatch.org>

<http://www.oilsandswatch.org>, <http://www.canadians.org/energy>, <http://www.ienearth.org>, <http://www.tarsandstimeout.ca>

Excerpt from author Tony Clarke's Book "Tar Sands Showdown"



...To transport this rapidly expanding volume of tar sands crude to US markets requires major increases in pipeline capacity. At present, there are twenty-two pipelines linking oil production in Canada (mainly Alberta) to the five major petroleum market regions in the US. However, new pipeline systems will be needed to transport the planned five-fold increase in tar sands production to US markets.

One major pipeline project is the Alberta Clipper being constructed by Enbridge Pipelines Ltd. The Alberta Clipper is a 1,607-kilometre pipeline designed to ship tar sands crude and bitumen from Alberta to refineries in Wisconsin, starting in mid-2010. When completed, the Alberta Clipper will initially move 450,000 bpd and eventually up to 800,000 bpd to US refineries and markets. Enbridge is also involved in the construction of a southern access pipeline that will transport tar sands crude further south to refineries and markets in Texas and the Gulf Coast.

Additional pipelines are in the works, some already being constructed, others in the planning stage, to link the Alberta tar sands to the growing demand for crude oil in the US. The Trans Mountain Pipeline, for example, from Edmonton through British Columbia to Washington State, is due to be completed in November 2008. According to US officials, this pipeline is urgently needed to supply Alberta crude to refineries in Washington State that serve US military operations on the Pacific Coast. Then there is the Keystone Pipeline, which is specifically designed to carry upgraded tar sands crude to refineries in southern Illinois. The Keystone will be 3,456 kilometres long: the Canadian portion will be built by TransCanada Pipeline. The National Energy Board has approved the Keystone project and it has received the green light from US regulatory bodies. When the Keystone Pipeline is completed, it will be able to transport 590,000 bpd to refineries and markets in the Midwest...