

NO PIPELINES! NO TANKERS!

Turning Off the Tap on Tar Sands Crude

The Harper and Alberta governments, along with Big Oil and gas companies, have made it abundantly clear they view the tar sands (also known as oil sands or natural bitumen) as a key economic driver in Canada. The Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines, the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project and the Pacific Trails Pipeline are critical components to this vision. These pipelines will transport fossil fuels through communities, across rivers and streams to the pristine Pacific Coast where they will be loaded in massive supertankers that will navigate BC's coastline to reach export markets, putting our land, water and communities at risk along the way.

Here is an overview of BC's proposed pipeline projects:

Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines

Enbridge's \$5.5 billion Northern Gateway is a twin pipeline project. One pipeline would ship 525,000 barrels of oil daily from Alberta along a 1,177-km path through northern B.C. to the coastal community of Kitimat, where it would then be shipped in oil tankers to U.S. and Asian markets. The other pipeline would move 193,000 barrels a day of condensate, which is used to dilute tar sands bitumen so it can flow through the pipelines, to Alberta.

The pipelines would traverse more than 50 Indigenous territories, and are being fiercely opposed in British Columbia. More than 130 First Nations have endorsed the landmark "Save the Fraser Declaration," which opposes the project based on the upholding of ancestral laws, titles, rights and responsibilities. The Council of Canadians has worked in B.C. in solidarity with communities such as the Unis'tot'en Clan of the Wet'suwet'en in defending their right to say "no" to these pipelines.

A pipeline or tanker spill threatens to cause irreversible harm to the environment and to the livelihoods of coastal and Indigenous peoples. The Enbridge Gateway pipelines would cross ecologically sensitive areas, including hundreds of salmon-bearing rivers and streams, the Great Bear Rainforest, and mountainous and landslide-prone terrain.

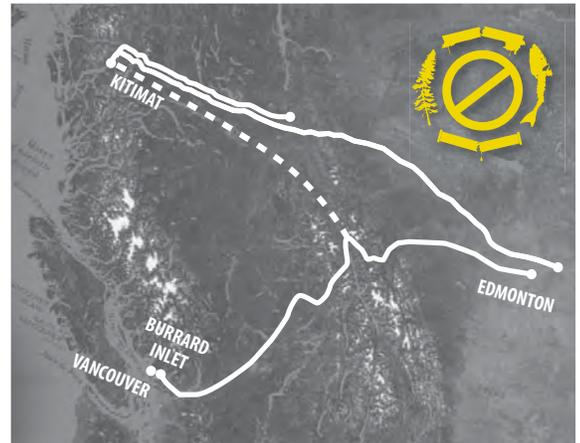
The project would require 225 oil tankers to travel through the pristine coastal waters of northern B.C., where navigation is notoriously perilous. Offshore oil spills in other parts of the world have shown how oil can devastate marine environments by contaminating them with dangerous toxins for years.

A joint review panel, mandated by the Minister of the Environment and the National Energy Board, is reviewing the environmental impacts of the proposed project. A decision is expected in 2014. Prime Minister Stephen Harper, a strong proponent of the tar sands and energy exports, has already said the pipelines are of "national interest."

Prime Minister Harper and Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver made international headlines when they referred to opponents of the pipelines as "foreign-funded radicals." In reality, the opposition to the Northern Gateway Pipeline has been strong and diverse. A record 4,500 people have registered to present their views at panel hearings, most coming from communities that will be directly impacted by the pipelines.

The Kinder Morgan expansion

Built in the early 1950s, the Trans Mountain Pipeline transports tar sands crude to both Greater Vancouver and the Puget Sound area in Washington State, feeding Chevron, BP, Shell and ConocoPhillips refineries, as well as export terminals. The pipeline is now operated by Kinder Morgan, a company that was co-founded by former Enron President (and billionaire), Richard Kinder. Kinder Morgan purchased the pipelines division of Enron in 1997.



In early 2012 Kinder Morgan began to look into further expanding the pipeline system – which had already been twinned. The pipeline presently spans 1,150 kilometres from Edmonton, Alberta (through Jasper National Park), to Burnaby, BC. If the twinning is approved, the pipeline systems' original 300,000 barrels per day capacity would increase to 850,000 barrels per day. Like Enbridge's proposal, the pipeline expansion would require increased oil tanker traffic in BC coastal waters. It is estimated that the project would add up to 360 supertankers per year in the Burrard Inlet and the Strait of Georgia.

Awareness and opposition to the project grew in 2007 after a major rupture in the line dumped 200,000 litres of crude oil – enough to cover an entire neighbourhood – in North Burnaby. There was a major leak at the Burnaby Mountain tank farm in 2009, and a spill this year (2012) at the Sumas pumping station near Abbotsford. These spills have led many people to question the safety of the project.

In 2011 the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation announced their opposition to any expansion of the Kinder Morgan pipeline, highlighting the risks to the community, the people and the environment, saying “there is just too much at stake to allow the project to proceed.”

Pacific Trails Pipeline

Perhaps the least known of the three major pipeline projects in B.C. is the approximately 460-km-long Pacific Trails Pipeline. Proposed by the Apache Corporation, Encana Corporation, and EOG Resources (formerly Enron), the \$1-billion pipeline would carry liquefied natural gas from shale gas development in northeastern BC to terminals in Kitimat. A large part of the pipeline's right-of-way follows the same path as Enbridge's proposed pipeline, raising concerns that this pipeline might “blaze a trail” for the Enbridge project.

The BC government approved the pipeline's expanded capacity in April 2012. However the pipeline's path goes through traditional unceded territories of communities that have not given consent to the project. The Unis'tot'en clan of the Wet'suwet'en Nation has been vocal about its opposition to the pipeline. Clan members have built a log cabin in its path. Allowing the pipeline to be constructed through this territory would ignore the sovereignty of First Nations and communities' right to say “no.”

Like Alberta, the British Columbia government aims to be an “energy power house” by exploiting some of the largest shale gas deposits in North America and using pipelines to place fracked shale gas on the more lucrative international market. This would come at the expense of the land and water that ecosystems and communities depend on for survival. The Pacific Trails Pipeline will be a major step backwards in the fight against climate change.

No Pipelines! No Tankers!

The Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines, the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, and the Pacific Trails Pipeline are pieces in a bigger pipelines puzzle, which also includes the Keystone XL pipeline to the U.S. Gulf Coast, Enbridge's proposed reversal of the Line 9 pipeline to open up Ontario, Quebec and U.S. markets, and Big Oil and gas companies' talk of shipping crude to Eastern Canada and international markets via the east coast.

These pipelines put short-term corporate interests ahead of the long-term interests of communities, the health of people, a clean environment and sustainable jobs. Our governments must be held accountable for ensuring Canadians' energy security, for setting the regulations needed to achieve necessary emission reductions, and for planning a better, brighter, fossil-free future.

Take Action!

1. Organize in your community – hold information sessions, hand out leaflets and tell your local politicians why you oppose these plans.
2. Connect with communities along the pipelines' routes.
3. Share information by tweeting with the hashtag #nopipelines, #notankers, or #notarsands.
4. Join the No Pipelines, No Tankers group on Facebook.
5. Donate to the Council of Canadians and join people from coast-to-coast-to-coast who are saying “No Pipelines, No Tankers!”

For more information about the Council's No Pipelines, No Tankers campaign, visit our website at www.canadians.org/pipelines or call us toll-free at 1-800-387-7177.