



Leveraging the SEM process to advance justice in the tar sands

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Defending clean water, a safe climate,
and healthy communities.



environmental
defence



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- Climate & Energy Program Manager
- Just transition - securing legislation and policies to leave no one behind
- Tar sands tailings - addressing environmental injustice and ecosystem degradation due to tar sands mining

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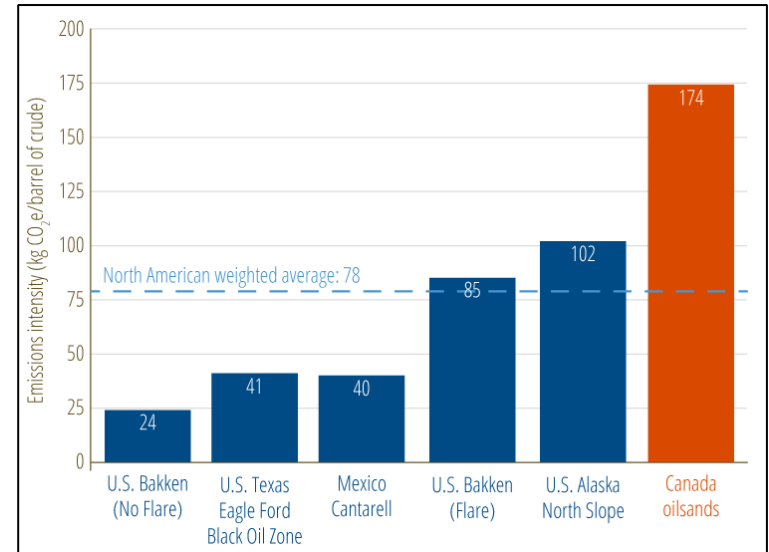
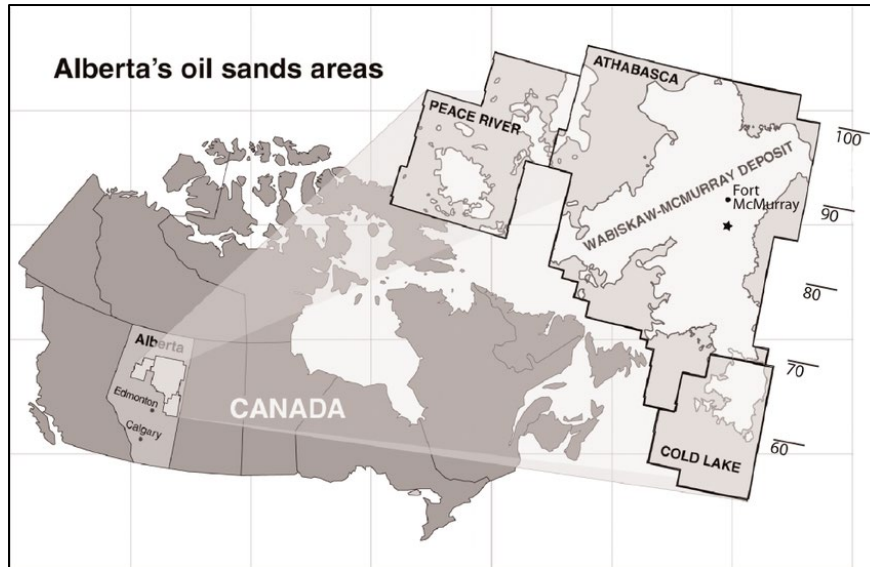


Agenda

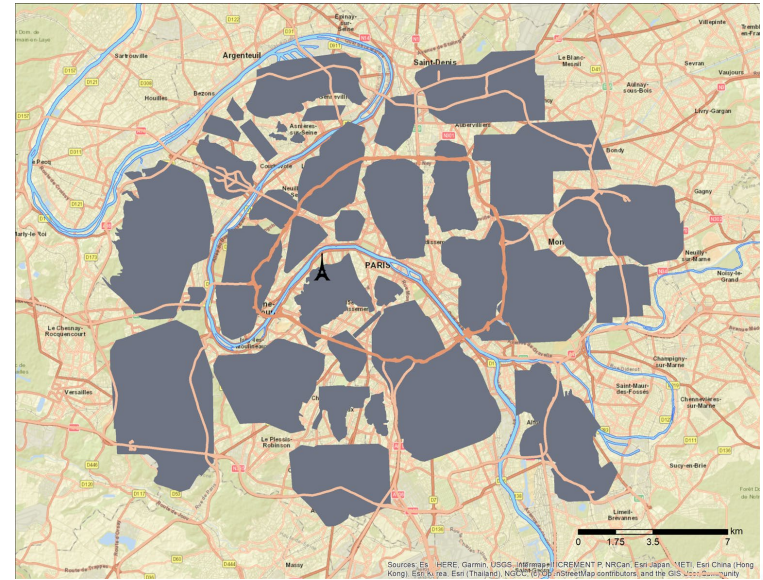
- I. Context: what are the tar sands of Canada
- II. Tactic: using the CEC's SEM process as an advocacy tool
- III. Q&A with co-panelists



CONTEXT: the tar sands of Canada



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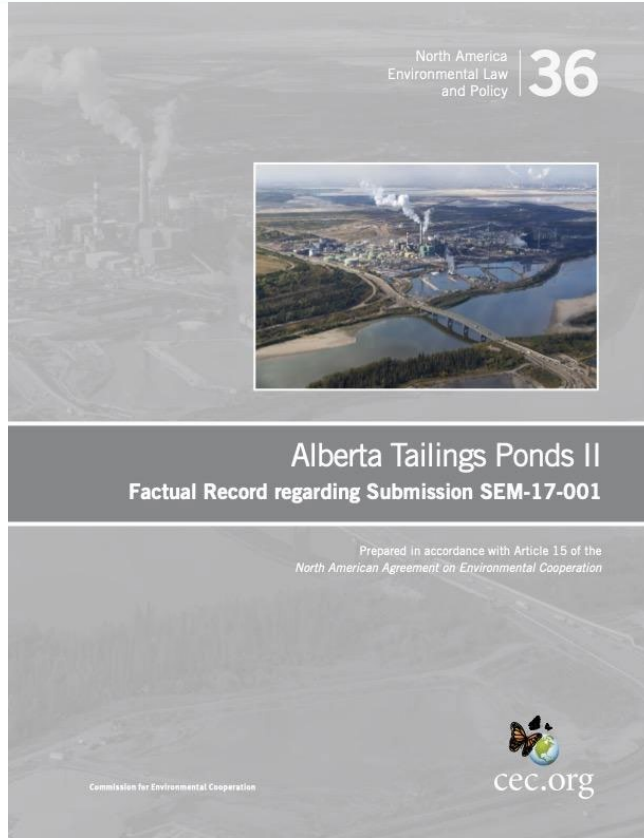
CONTEXT: the tar sands of Canada



- Canada's oil sands are the largest source of foreign oil imported by the United States.
- Over 80% of Canadian oil comes from the oil sands



TACTIC: the SEM Process



Is Canada failing to enforce the *Fisheries Act*?

“Subject to subsection (4), no person shall deposit or permit the deposit of a deleterious substance of any type in water frequented by fish or in any place under any conditions where the deleterious substance or any other deleterious substance that results from the deposit of the deleterious substance may enter any such water.”



RESULTS: response and outcomes

IN BRIEF

"[I]t is not proper for a factual record to speculate on whether the discretionary [enforcement] powers of the Minister under the Act should have been pursued."

CEC Council

- Confirmation of evidence of seepage
- Clarity on Canada's barriers to enforcement
- ~~→ Clarity on whether Canada was failing to enforce its law~~



RESULTS: response and outcomes

ENVIRONMENT

Canadian oilsands tailings ponds leaking; federal enforcement unclear: report

By Bob Weber · The Canadian Press

Posted September 3, 2020 7:29 pm · Updated September 3, 2020 9:32 pm · 4 min read

Federal Climate

For Immediate Release: September 01, 2022

Statement from Aliénor Rougeot on two-year anniversary of international factual record on leaking toxic tailings

Politics

Environmental watchdog report says Alberta oilsands tailings ponds are tainting groundwater

Alberta's chief scientist says he is reviewing the report



David Thurton · CBC News ·

Posted: Sep 03, 2020 6:06 PM EDT | Last Updated: September 4, 2020

EXPLAINER

It's official: Alberta's oilsands tailings ponds are leaking. Now what?

A years-long international investigation has found 'scientifically valid evidence' the massive pits that store toxic waste in the oilsands are leaking, leaving Albertans wondering who's going to clean them up



By Sharon J. Riley

Dec. 14, 2020 · 13 min. read



THANK YOU

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