

## **ABSTRACT**

**CREATIVE PROJECT:** Canadian tar sands development and the massive proposed pipeline infrastructure in the United States.

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Canadian oil sands development, also known as tar sands, in Ft. McMurray, Alberta, Canada is what environmental organizations such as the Sierra Club and Natural Resources Defense Council refer to as the most environmentally destructive project on earth. The largest engineered dykes in the world hold wastewater that contains several known pollutants that leaks billions of gallons of toxic sludge into the Athabasca River and other fresh groundwater sources every year. The environmental impact of carbon emissions, depletion of fresh water from the Athabasca River, and deforestation of the Boreal Forest, along with the polluted Athabasca River that is poisoning the fish, birds, and wildlife of Alberta, Canada are all contributing factors, which confirm that, indeed, Canadian tar sands development truly is the most destructive project on earth.

Dick Cheney's 2005 National Energy Policy Act approved tar sands as a source of energy for the United States. Upon tar sands approval as a source of energy, TransCanada, a pipeline construction and operation company immediately drafted plans for a massive pipeline infrastructure. Keystone 1 is a 2,148-mile

pipeline that traverses from Hardisty, Alberta, Canada through North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Illinois. The 1,980-mile proposed Keystone XL pipeline is currently under consideration with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and will traverse from Hardisty, Alberta, Canada through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas. This project details tar sands production and focuses on the plight of affected landowners.