Overview of Tar Sands Development
Canadian Indigenous Tar Sands Campaign
Indigenous Environmental Network
http://www.ienearth.org/cits.html
An Industrial Landscape?

- Oil sands are composed of sand, silt, clay, water and about 10% bitumen (tar).
- These enormous deposits make up about 21% of the province. Area of 14 million hectares of boreal forest (140,000 km²).
- 300,000 hectares is close enough to the surface to mine
- Although mining impacts are severe, from a land impact perspective, will be dwarfed by the impacts of deep oil sands development
Strip Mining from the top down

- Boreal forest
- Muskeg (peat bog, water soaked layer of decaying plant material, 1-3 meters thick)
- Overburden (layer of rocky, clay-like material)
- OIL SANDS

Photo: David Dodge. Copyright © 2005 The Pembina Institute
Tailings ponds

• vast holding tanks the size of lakes, some as large as 15 square kilometres, containing hydrocarbons and other chemical by-products from tar sands production.
A Globally Significant Threat

- Global Warming
- Treaty Rights
- Oil Addiction
- Energy Infrastructure
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IEN-Canadian Indigenous Tar Sands Campaign

Support Aboriginal Treaties and Inherent Rights

Environmental and climate justice demands the urgent need for a coordinated, collective response led by First Nations and Métis to the tar sands development. We must support Aboriginal treaty-rights and human rights! The Canadian Indigenous Tar Sands campaign calls for a moratorium on the tar sands development. The campaign for a moratorium would be in effect until the concerns of First Nations and Métis are addressed.

These concerns are:

• Human rights abuses;
• Human and ecological health crisis;
• Climate change implications and adaptation;
• Water and air quality concerns;
• Clean up and restoration;
• Treaty rights recognition and
• The tribal sovereignty and self-determination implications and the cumulative socio economic impacts on the health and way of life of Indigenous Peoples in the region.