Proposed Tar Sands Development in Utah Puts Communities and the Environment at Risk

- The Canadian company U.S. Oil Sands currently has all permits necessary to start development on the first tar sands mine in the U.S. They hold leases for nearly 6,000 acres of land in Utah.

- This project would take place on 213 acres of state land on the scenic Tavaputs Plateau, right on the Grand/Uintah County line. These canyons serve as headwaters for the Colorado River, which supplies 30 million people with fresh water.

- The energy intensive extraction of this resource will leave behind hundreds of acres of toxic tailings containing solvents with known carcinogenic and mutative compounds, as well caustic chemicals that are undisclosed by the company.

- Tar Sands production will cause existing water rights to change from agricultural use to industrial use, with major detrimental effects on rural communities.

- 20 gallons of gasoline refined from tar sands = 4,000 lbs. of displaced earth

- 2 tons of tar sands produces 1/8 ton (1 barrel) of oil

- It takes 3 barrels of water to produce 1 barrel of oil from tar sands

- Burning oil from tar sands produces 2-4 times more greenhouse gas emissions than regular crude oil.

- One study found that “even if all other carbon dioxide emissions stopped, fully exploiting the tar sands would still tip the world into catastrophic climate change by raising global temperatures more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels”.

- All the oil produced from this giant proposed development project at PR Spring will fuel America for a mere 6 hours.
The Oil Shale Sham

- The largest deposits of Oil Shale in the world are found in the United States in the Green River Formation, which covers portions of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. About 800 billion barrels of recoverable oil from oil shale are in the Green River Formation. This is three times greater than the proven oil reserves of Saudi Arabia.

- More than 70% of the total oil shale acreage in the Green River Formation, including the richest and thickest oil shale deposits, is under federally owned and managed lands.

- Despite a century of trying and $10 billion in investment, oil shale currently provides an infinitesimal 0.0001 percent (or one ten-thousandth) of world energy.

- Pound per pound, oil shale contains just one-tenth the energy of crude oil, one-sixth that of coal, and one-fourth that of recycled phone books.

- According to the U.S. Geological Survey, half of the planet’s oil shale lies within 150 miles of Grand Junction, Colorado.

- To produce 100,000 barrels of oil per day, the RAND Corporation recently estimated that Shell will need to construct the largest power plant in Colorado’s history (large enough to serve a city of 500,000) to provide energy for their oil shale development. This power plant, costing about $3 billion, would consume five million tons of coal each year, producing ten million tons of greenhouse gases, some of which would still be in the atmosphere a century from now. One million barrels a day would require ten new power plants and five new coal mines.

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