

Alberta tar sands mining is the most devastating industrial project the planet has ever seen. Victoria, photographer Garth Lenz shares shocking photos of the Alberta tar sands mining project and the beautiful and vital ecosystems under threat. Tar sands oil produces more CO₂ than any other oil.

Tar sands mining is sending chemicals down the Athabasca River which have raised the cancer rates of native people living along the river to 10 times the cancer rate in the rest of Canada. The tailings ponds are built unlined on the banks of the Athabasca River. Low income people who live downstream have to eat the carcinogenic fish and animals to survive.

Native peoples have lived in a sustainable way in the Boreal forest for the past 10,000 years. Canada's Boreal Forest sequesters more carbon than any other eco system, double the carbon sequestered in the tropical rain forests. The Great Bear Rain Forest has the greatest density of threatened species.

The Keystone XL pipeline would go through the agriculture heartland of the U.S. A four times increase in production is proposed, equivalent to the size of the state of Florida. "We all need to act to insure that Canada acts to respect its massive supply of fresh water. Garth Lenz concluded, "We need to all gather to say no to the Canadian tar sands. Everyone has a role to play. . . We have an incredible opportunity to preserve the Boreal Forests, our best defense against global warming." Watch his talk accompanied by his photos of the Boreal Forest and the tar sands mines.

<http://www.commondreams.org/video/2012/02/20-0>