

RESISTING the TAR SANDS in Idaho & Montana

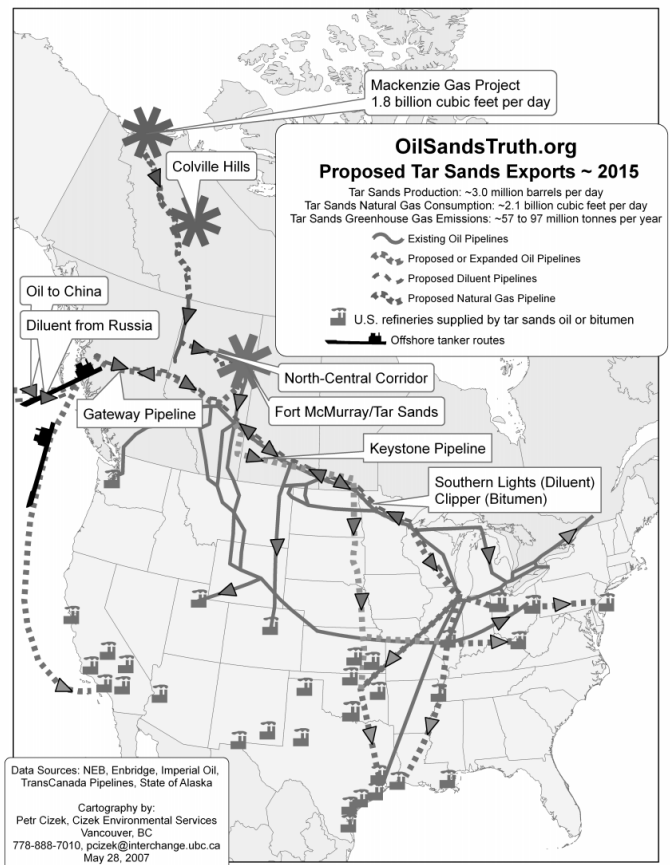
BY NORTHERN ROCKIES RISING TIDE

After three rural Idaho residents stopped the tar sands megaloads for 6 months, through court and administrative actions, the first load started rolling down Idaho and Montana's scenic byway (Route 12) on February 1, 2011. These giant loads take up both lanes of the highway with some of them weighing over 500,000 pounds and stretching for over 200 feet. The first four shipments, courtesy of Conoco Phillips, are going to update a refinery in Billings, Montana so that it can process tar sands from Alberta.

While the load crossed Arrow Bridge some wheels were tilted at a 45-degree angle into thin air. This load also scraped a rock face along the highway and caused a 59-minute delay in traffic in both directions.

People were called terrorist for monitoring violations of the law and told that if they stepped out of their car they would be arrested. People were pulled over for following the pilot car. The second load left Lewiston on February 17, travelled for two nights from 10 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. before it got stuck in Kooskia for "routine maintenance" and a beautiful blizzard. GO SNOW! It struggled with Arrow Bridge as well, with the dolly failing yet again.

Exxon/Mobile is scheduled to do a test run March 28. They plan to take 114 of the original 207 loads up Route 12. They have also started running the smaller loads from Vancouver, Washington, along I-5 and I-90 to the Alberta Tar Sands.



On March 10, Northern Rockies Rising Tide (NRRT) and supporters blocked two shipments as they rolled through Missoula, Montana. At about 2:30 a.m. two

residents, ages 69 and 50, sat down in the middle of Reserve Street in an attempt to halt the shipment of oversized loads of equipment heading to the Conoco Phillips tar sands oil refinery in Billings.

They attempted three or four times to block the shipments but the police refused to arrest the two women, instead opting to forcefully remove them to the sidewalk as



Protesting pipeline shipments in Lewiston, Idaho