

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Opposition rises to proposed CO₂ pipeline in Alberta: “You wouldn’t live next to this – why should we?”

A new coalition of rural, Indigenous and farming communities along the route vows to stop the project, citing danger of explosion, threats to water and public costs

(Edmonton, AB) – As the April 1st deadline for the Alberta-Canada Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) approaches, a new coalition called [No CO₂ Pipelines Alberta](#) launched today to oppose a key pillar of the deal: a proposed 600-kilometre carbon capture pipeline and 18,000 km² carbon storage (CCUS) project crossing dozens of rural communities and Indigenous nations in Alberta.

“Thousands of Albertans like me live directly in this project’s ‘hazard zone’. In an explosion, people in our communities are facing anything from breathing issues to brain damage to instant death. So I have one question for the Prime Minister: if you wouldn’t live next to this pipeline, why should we?” — **Penny Fox, coalition co-founder and resident of St. Paul County, AB**

At the launch event, the group announced a series of town halls in impacted communities to organize neighbours and prevent their communities from turning into the world’s largest toxic CO₂ waste site. More actions will follow. The group is also organizing to ensure that no public dollars are spent on a project that largely benefits profitable, foreign-owned companies.

“The companies behind the so-called Oil Sands Alliance are majority American-owned. They send their profits back to boardrooms in the U.S. while asking for billions in taxpayer dollars in Canada to build something that is all risk, no upside for our communities. This coalition doesn’t agree on everything, but we’re working together because we all want to keep our communities safe – and we know a bad deal when we see one.” — **Nigel Robinson, member, Cold Lake First Nation**

The coalition also [released their formal request](#) to the Federal government to conduct a comprehensive Impact Assessment of this project covering an area triple the size of PEI. This after Alberta’s energy regulator [refused](#) to assess the impacts of the project, and the federal Impact Assessment Agency (IAAC) [suspended](#) their assessment at the request of the Oilsands Alliance—after three years of relentless lobbying and more than six hundred meetings with the federal government to avoid an impact assessment.

“We’re talking about hundreds of kilometers of pipeline that pass directly through areas where we live, hunt, fish and exercise our treaty rights. This project endangers our people, our land, our water and wildlife. And yet there has been no consultation, no information sharing, and no formal environmental assessment. Our message to the federal government is clear: come negotiate in public. Come to our communities, see why we won’t risk our way of life so profitable oil companies can bury their toxic waste under our communities.” — Chief Allan Adam, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation

Successfully advancing the CCUS project is a key element of a proposed Alberta-Canada MOU, setting conditions for the construction of a new bitumen pipeline from Alberta to the West Coast. In the MOU, the governments agreed to construct “the world’s largest carbon capture, utilization, and storage project” with a goal of rebranding Alberta’s oil as “low carbon.” The proposed project will impact rural and Indigenous communities all along the pipeline route and “storage” area, none of whom were included in the MOU negotiations.

“Alberta and the Canadian government signed a Memorandum of Understanding to construct a multi-billion dollar toxic waste site in our backyard, with no consultation or benefit to our community. We have been respectfully asking for a conversation about this project for years and gotten nowhere. We have asked for AER reform and heard crickets. The cumulative impacts of all these projects are adding up and they need to be coordinated. Consultation needs to be reformed, we have so many unanswered questions and I know Albertans generally do, too, on this and other proposed projects. And now, Alberta is going to fast-track major projects approvals within 90 days. Our communities hold all of the risk and none of the economic benefits of this project—it’s completely unacceptable. Our Nation is not a garbage dump for American-owned oil companies.” — Chief Kelsey Jacko, Cold Lake First Nation

Other speakers highlighted more risks and false promises of this unproven and dangerous technology, and ways farmers can organize to protect their water and land.

“In the outside chance this project actually works, it will capture about 5% of oil sands emissions. But historically, this technology underperforms or dangerously fails. We’re talking about toxic leaks to the surface, contaminating both ground and surface water. That’s why farmers in Australia have successfully organized to block CCUS, and that’s why farmers are organizing here. Ask Albertans what’s more important to them: access to fresh water and local food, or a multi-billion-dollar handout to foreign oil companies? I think the answer will be clear.” — Glenn Norman, National Farmers Union VP Policy.

Initial [series of town halls](#), with more in the works:

- Tuesday April 26, Mallaig, 7:00 p.m. at Mallaig Legion
- Wednesday May 6, Lac La Biche, 5:30 p.m. at the Lac La Biche Community Hall
- Wednesday, May 13, Edmonton, details to come

[Letter to the federal government](#) requesting a full environmental impact assessment

BACKGROUND:

About the project: The proposed CCUS project would capture carbon dioxide (CO₂) from 13 oil sands facilities in the Fort McMurray, Christina Lake, and Cold Lake regions and transport high-pressure CO₂ to the Cold Lake area where it will be injected underground (just south of St. Paul). The project includes [over 600 km of pipelines and a carbon storage area of 18,000 km²](#), triple the size of PEI.

Who's behind it: The lead members of the Pathways (now Oil Sands Alliance) —Canadian Natural Resources Ltd., Cenovus Energy, ExxonMobil subsidiary Imperial Oil, and Suncor Energy— [are 73% foreign-owned, and 60% American-owned.](#)

Billions in giveaways: Despite generating [hundreds of billions in profits](#), the Pathways Alliance has requested [billions in tax dollars to fund the project.](#)

“Relentless lobbying”, not community consultation: Since Jan. 2023, the Pathways / Oilsands Alliance [has lobbied the federal government hundreds of times](#) requesting [massive public subsidies and a complete exemption from the federal Impact Assessment Act](#) – while refusing to meet with impacted communities.

It won't create “low-carbon” oil: If successful, Pathways CCUS project will capture only 10-12 MT of CO₂ by 2030, [approximately 5% of current oil and gas emissions.](#)

Most fail: Most carbon capture projects shut down early and the few that advance, vastly underperform. In 2022, the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis reported that [10 out 13](#) major carbon capture projects failed to deliver on their targets.

It risks our water: The Pathways CCUS project would inject CO₂ into deep aquifers near Cold Lake. If CO₂ leaks into groundwater, it can [acidify water and leach toxic metals like lead and arsenic](#), contaminating drinking water and irrigation supplies in the region.

It's dangerous: In 2020, the community of Sartaria, Mississippi was devastated by a CO₂ pipeline rupture, [with reports of people having seizures, falling unconscious, and experiencing respiratory distress.](#) Ambulances and cars stopped working due to the toxic levels of CO₂. One local emergency responder said, “it looked like you were going through the zombie apocalypse.”

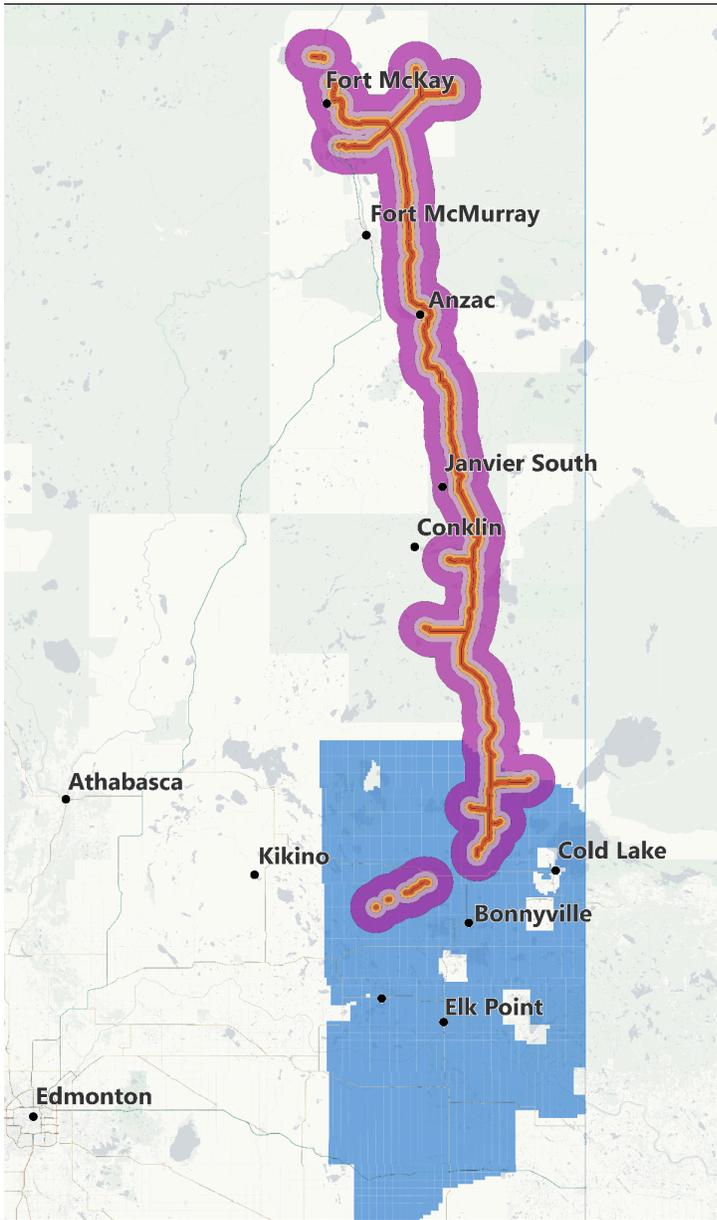
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MAP: Oil Sands Alliance’s proposed “Pathways” Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage Project in North-Eastern Alberta



- Hazard type and range of impact:**
- Death: Within 1.1 km
 - Loss of Consciousness: Within 2.3 km
 - Respiration & Heart Rate: Within 4.3 km
 - General Health Impacts: Within 10.5 km
 - CO2 Storage Area

About this map:

The map includes hazard zones in the event of a pipeline rupture (red, orange, and purple bands along pipeline route), as well as the underground storage area for sequestered carbon (blue shaded area).

The map is based on current pipeline applications submitted by the proponents to the Alberta Energy Regulator as of December 19, 2025. It will be expanded as more project applications have been submitted.

Hazard zone estimates are based on CO₂ plume modelling and represent potential CO₂ concentrations in the affected area between 1 and 30 minutes after a pipeline rupture event. Estimates assume a pipeline diameter of 15 to 20 inches according to specs included in the proponents’ applications to the AER.

Mapping Methodology:

The map is based on estimates and

methods that were originally published by [CO₂ Pipeline Kill Zone](#) in South Dakota, citing previously conducted CO₂ hazard modelling.

High-resolution map available upon request.