



**NPRA**

2007 Q&A and Technology Forum



# Western Canadian Crude Oil Production - an overview

Presentation to the National Petrochemical and  
Refiners Association

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Principles & Practices

Crude Quality Inc.

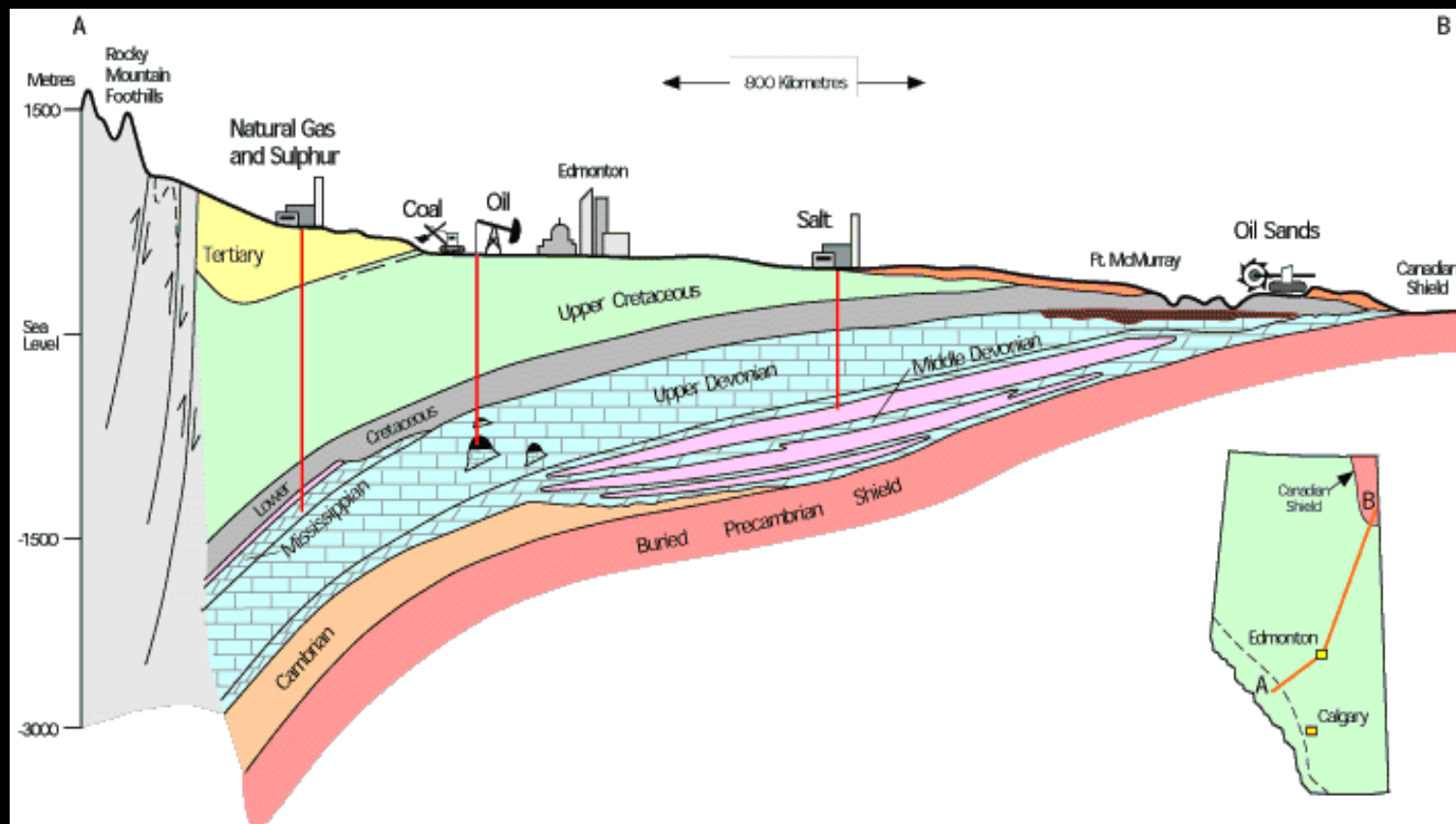
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# Principal Geology

- Predominant Geology
  - PreCambrian Shield
  - Rockies, et al thrust zones
  - Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin (WCSB)
- Four Provinces, Two Territories
  - All have hydrocarbon reserves

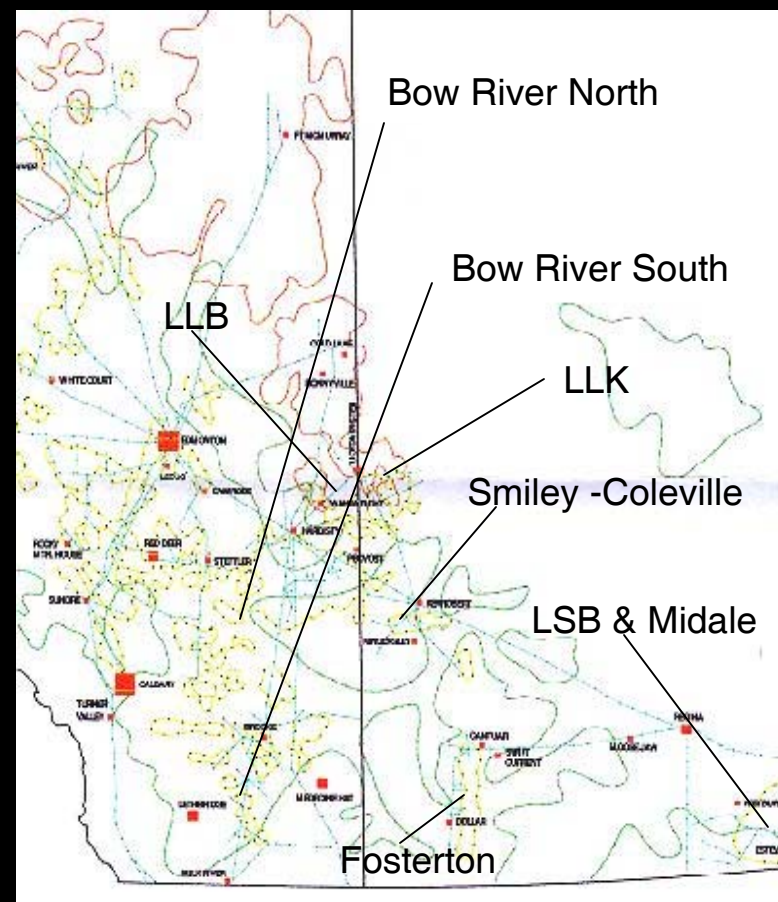


# Alberta – Subterranean Cross Section

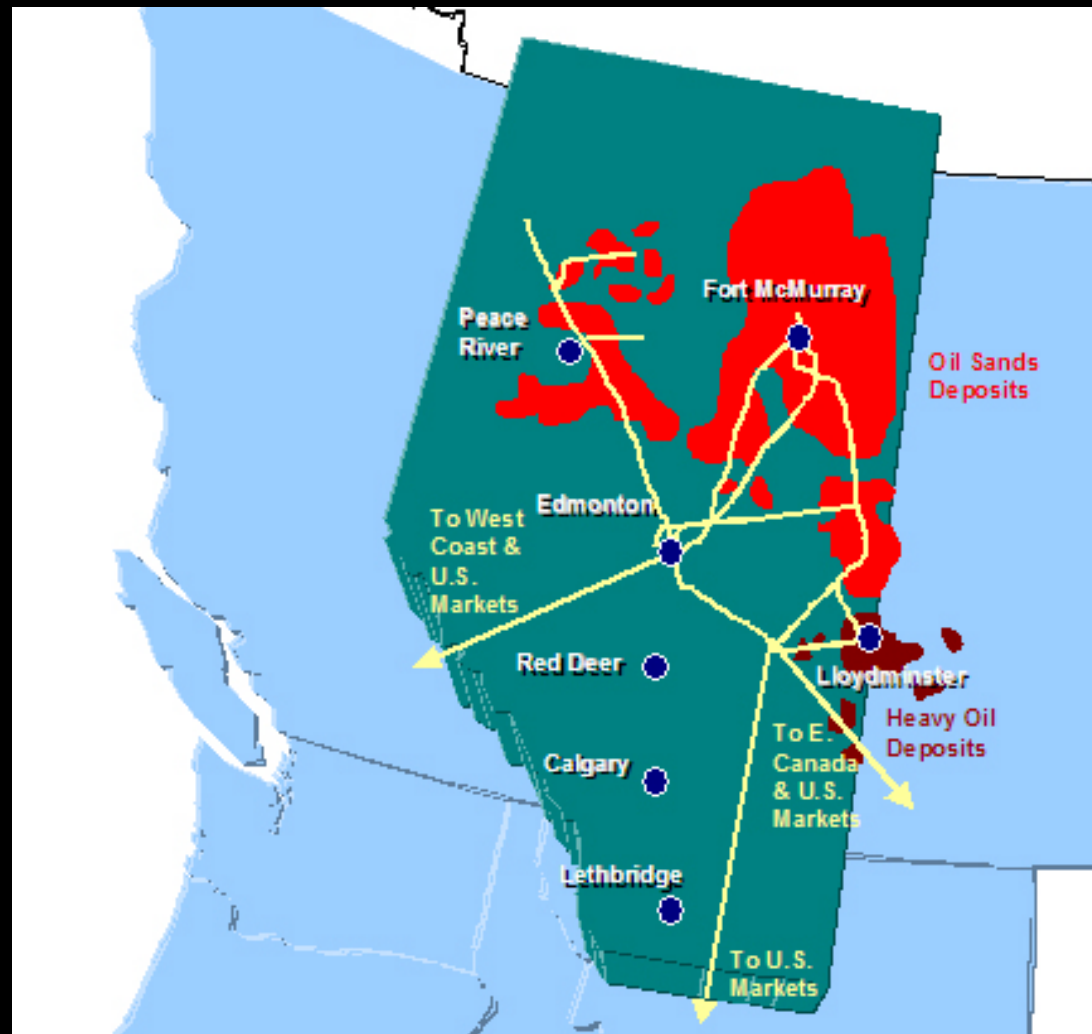


# Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin (WCSB)

- Heavy Conventional
- Medium Conventional
- Light Conventional
- Bitumen regions
  - Cold Lake
  - Athabasca
  - Wabasca
  - Peace River



# Heavy Oil and Oil Sands - Locations



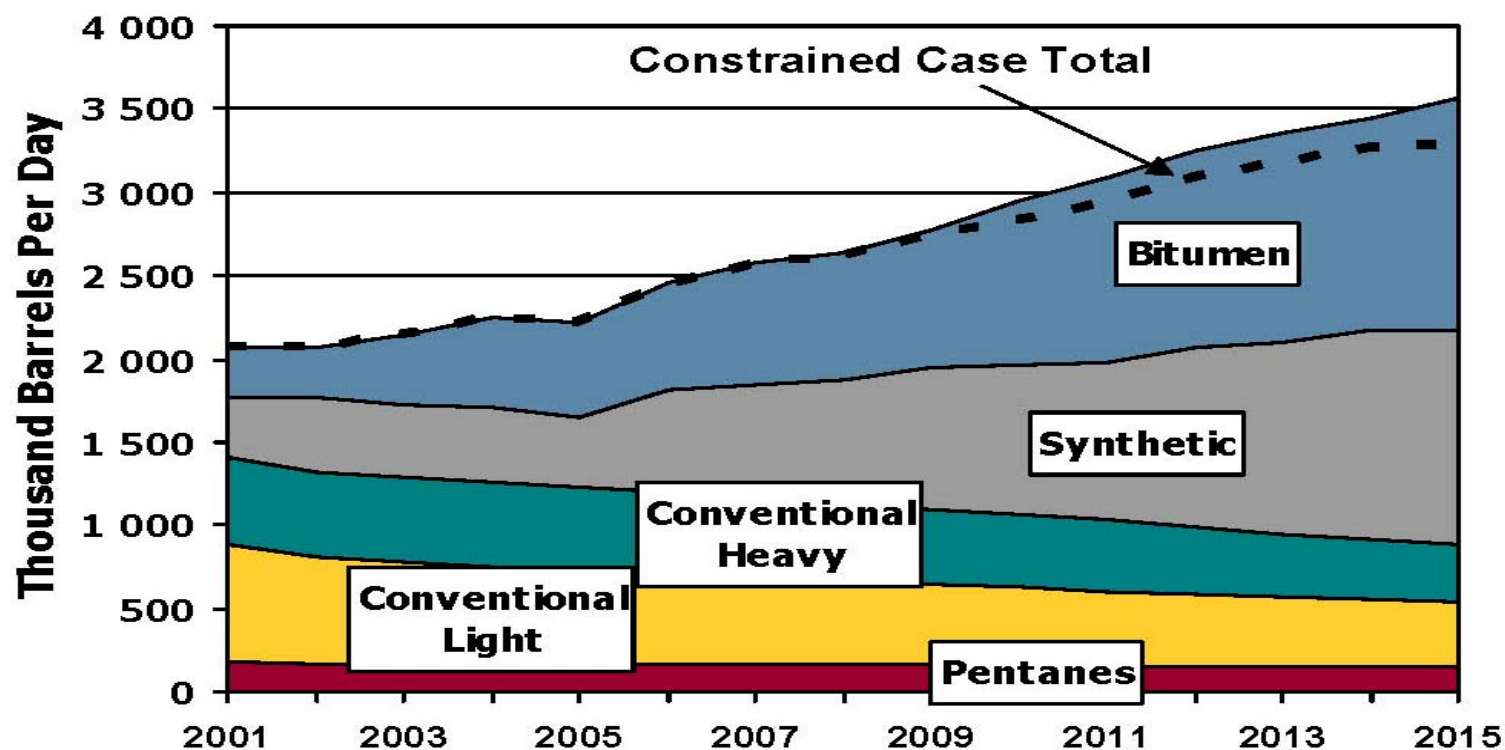
# Key Producers

## *Western Canada Production (kbpd)*

|                            | BC | AB    | SK  | MB | NWT | Total |
|----------------------------|----|-------|-----|----|-----|-------|
| <b>1996</b>                | 46 | 1 557 | 361 | 11 | 30  | 2 004 |
| <b>1997</b>                | 53 | 1 620 | 404 | 11 | 29  | 2 117 |
| <b>1998</b>                | 57 | 1 632 | 399 | 11 | 28  | 2 128 |
| <b>1999</b>                | 50 | 1 536 | 374 | 10 | 28  | 1 999 |
| <b>2000</b>                | 55 | 1 537 | 417 | 11 | 26  | 2 047 |
| <b>2001</b>                | 55 | 1 550 | 427 | 11 | 26  | 2 070 |
| <b>2002</b>                | 53 | 1 550 | 422 | 11 | 25  | 2 061 |
| <b>2003</b>                | 49 | 1 643 | 420 | 11 | 24  | 2 147 |
| <b>2004</b>                | 47 | 1 741 | 423 | 11 | 23  | 2 245 |
| <b><i>2005 est YTD</i></b> | 42 | 1 712 | 421 | 12 | 20  | 2 208 |
| <b><i>2006 est YTD</i></b> | 46 | 2 030 | 477 | 13 | 23  | 2 589 |

# WCSB Production Estimates

**Chart 5: Western Canadian Crude Oil Production  
Moderate Case vs. Constrained Case**





# Production Techniques

- Conventional
  - Natural gas, light, medium, heavy crudes
  - Traditional drill a hole, mount a pump (if needed), connect a pipeline to a battery
- Non-conventional
  - Cyclic Steam Stimulation (CSS)
  - Steam Assisted Gravity Drainage (SAGD)
  - Vapour Extraction (VapEx)
  - Mining
  - Upgrading (full and partial)
  - Coal Bed Methane (CBM)

# Conventional Production Methods

- Natural gas, light, medium, heavy crudes
- Production Methods
  - Largely dependent on formation pressure, porosity, permeability, viscosity of the fluids and age of well
- “Pull” techniques
  - Reciprocating pumps (pump jacks)
  - Rotary pumps (vane submersibles, positive displacement)
- “Push” techniques
  - Water flood, gas/solvent flood, steam flood

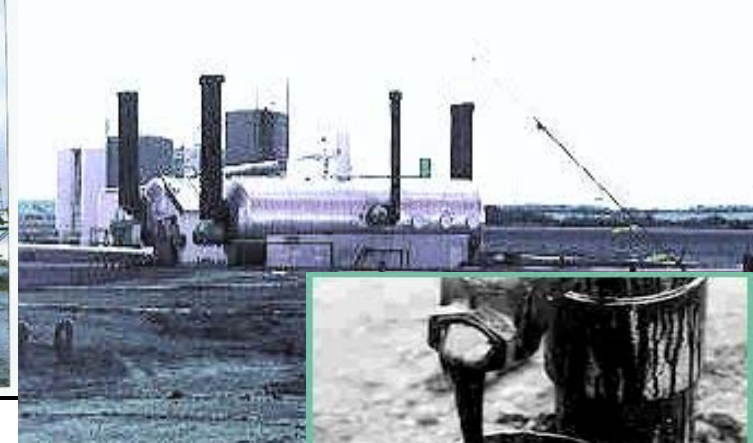
# API and Sulfur Trends -Conventional Production





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# Conventional Production

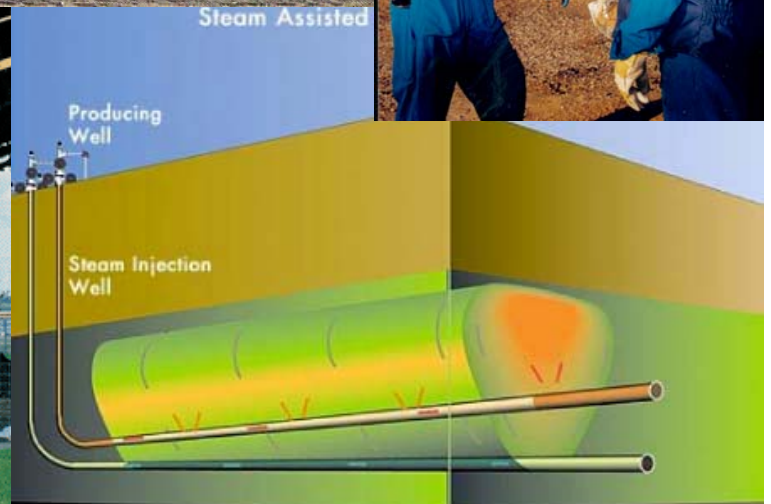


# Non-Conventional Production

- Coal Bed Methane (CBM)
- Mining
- Cyclic Steam Stimulation (CSS)
- Steam Assisted Gravity Drainage (SAGD)
- Vapour Extraction (VapEx)
- THAI (Toe to Heel Air Injection)
- Upgrading (full and partial)

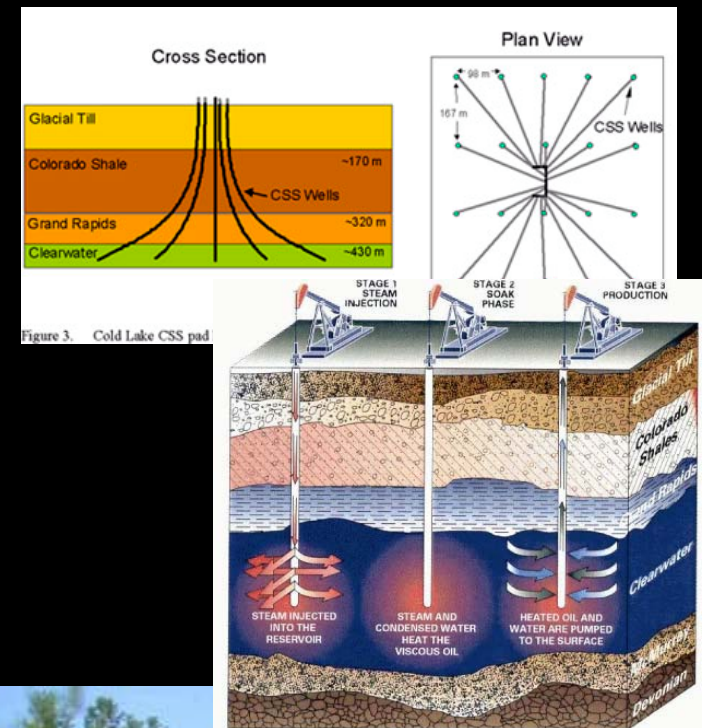


# Non-Conventional Production



# Cyclic Steam Stimulation (CSS)

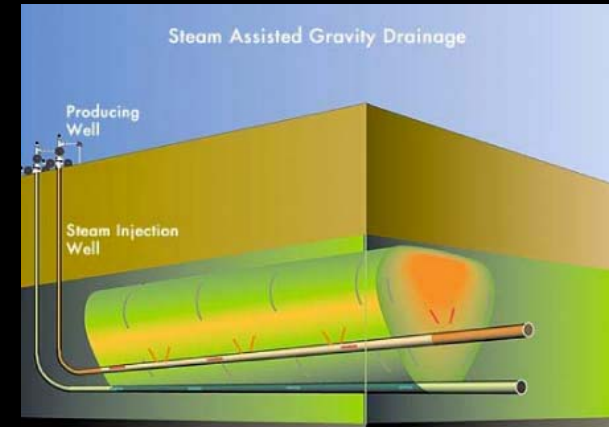
- Cold Lake bitumen production
- Production zones are deeper than in SAGD and mining operations
- Inject steam into zone, then allow heat to diffuse into formation
- Move in pump jacks and start production





# SAGD (Steam Assisted Gravity Drainage)

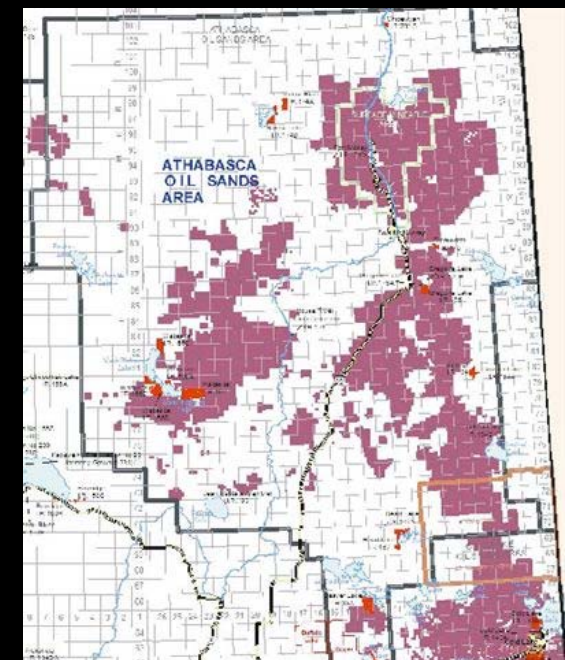
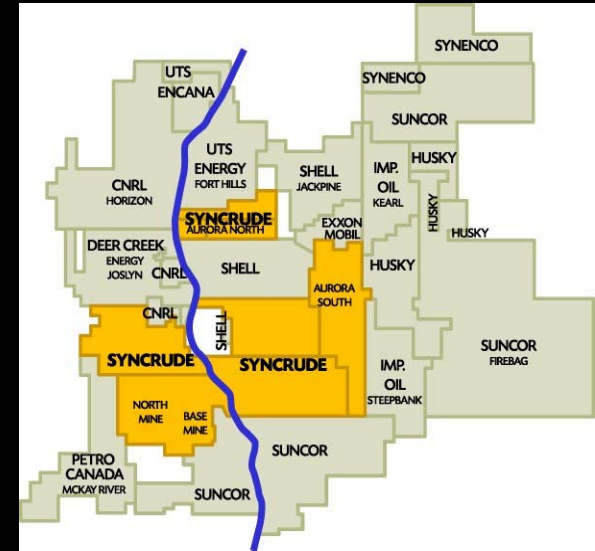
- Series of horizontal wells (upper and lower)
- Steam is applied to upper well, formation is heated
- Bitumen and condensed steam produced from lower well
- Unlike CSS, heating and production are simultaneous





# Mining

- Driven by standard strip ratio, recovery economics
- All operations are now truck and shovel
- Bitumen production is fully or partially upgraded
- Current mining economics do have geographical limits



# Upgrading

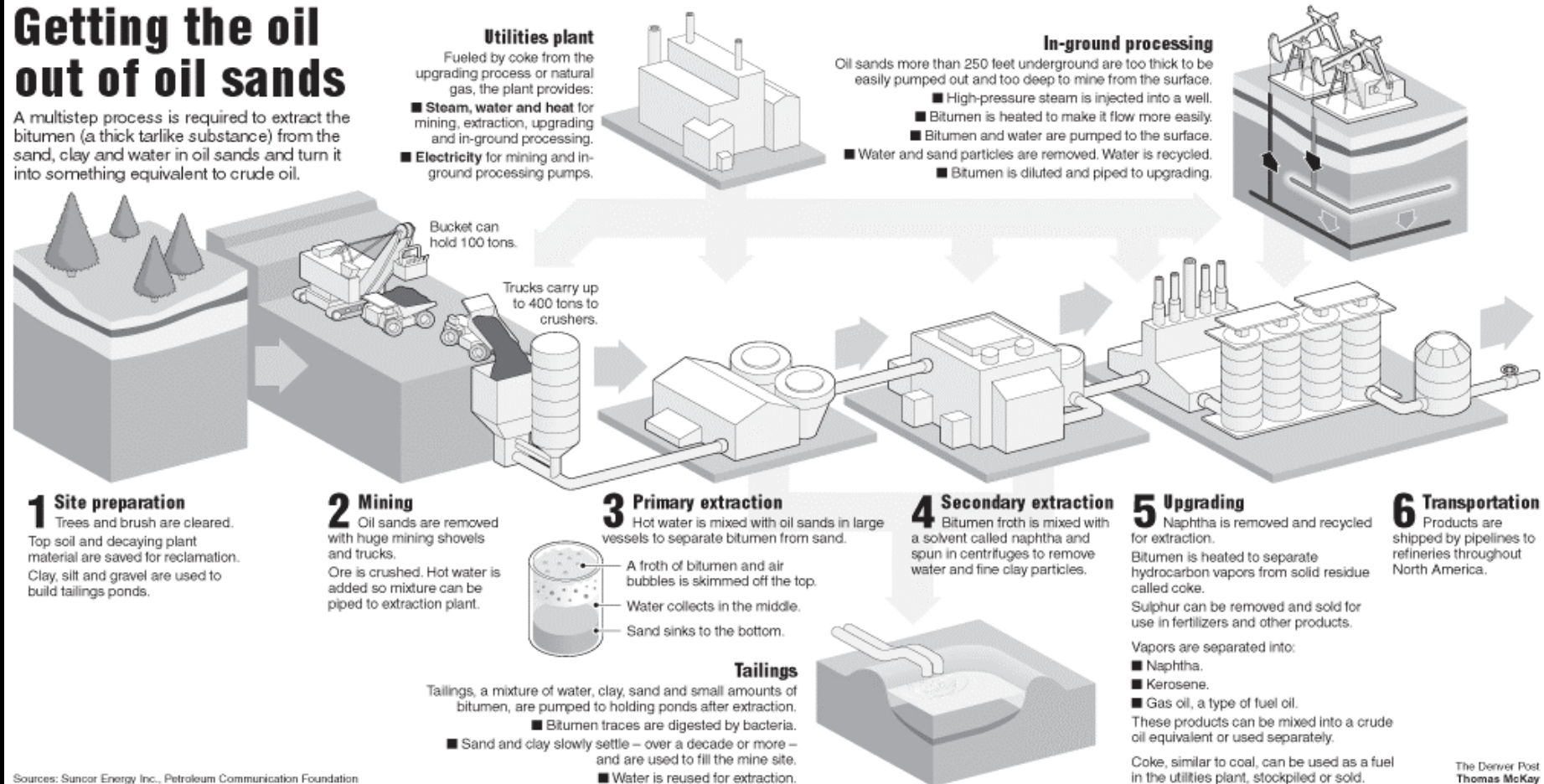
- Conventional process is to extract bitumen from sand, then coke, and hydrotreat coker products
- Hydrocracking extracted bitumen recently more prominent
- HGO conversion will improve marketability
- Market upgraders



# Upgrading Mined Oil Sands

## Getting the oil out of oil sands

A multistep process is required to extract the bitumen (a thick tarlike substance) from the sand, clay and water in oil sands and turn it into something equivalent to crude oil.



Sources: Suncor Energy Inc., Petroleum Communication Foundation

The Denver Post  
Thomas McKay

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# WCSB Product Quality

- Products
  - Conventional light, medium, heavy
  - Non-conventional dilbit, synbit, synthetic
  - Custom blended products
- Conventional streams should remain consistent into future though volumes are predicted to decrease
- Non-conventional streams will attempt to develop market differentiation (SSB→SSP, OS<sub>n</sub>)
- Light/ heavy spread will determine upgrading versus direct-to-dilbit decisions

# Q & A

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