

Issues Surrounding the Transportation of Crude Oil in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region

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Status of the Reports on Oil Transportation

- Request to prepare an issue brief in September 2013
- Summary report and four separate issue briefs on oil transportation completed
- Presenting the summary at 2014 Annual Meeting as a “discussion draft”
- Action request to initiate a 60-day review by states, provinces and stakeholders
- Final reports to be presented at 2015 Semiannual meeting

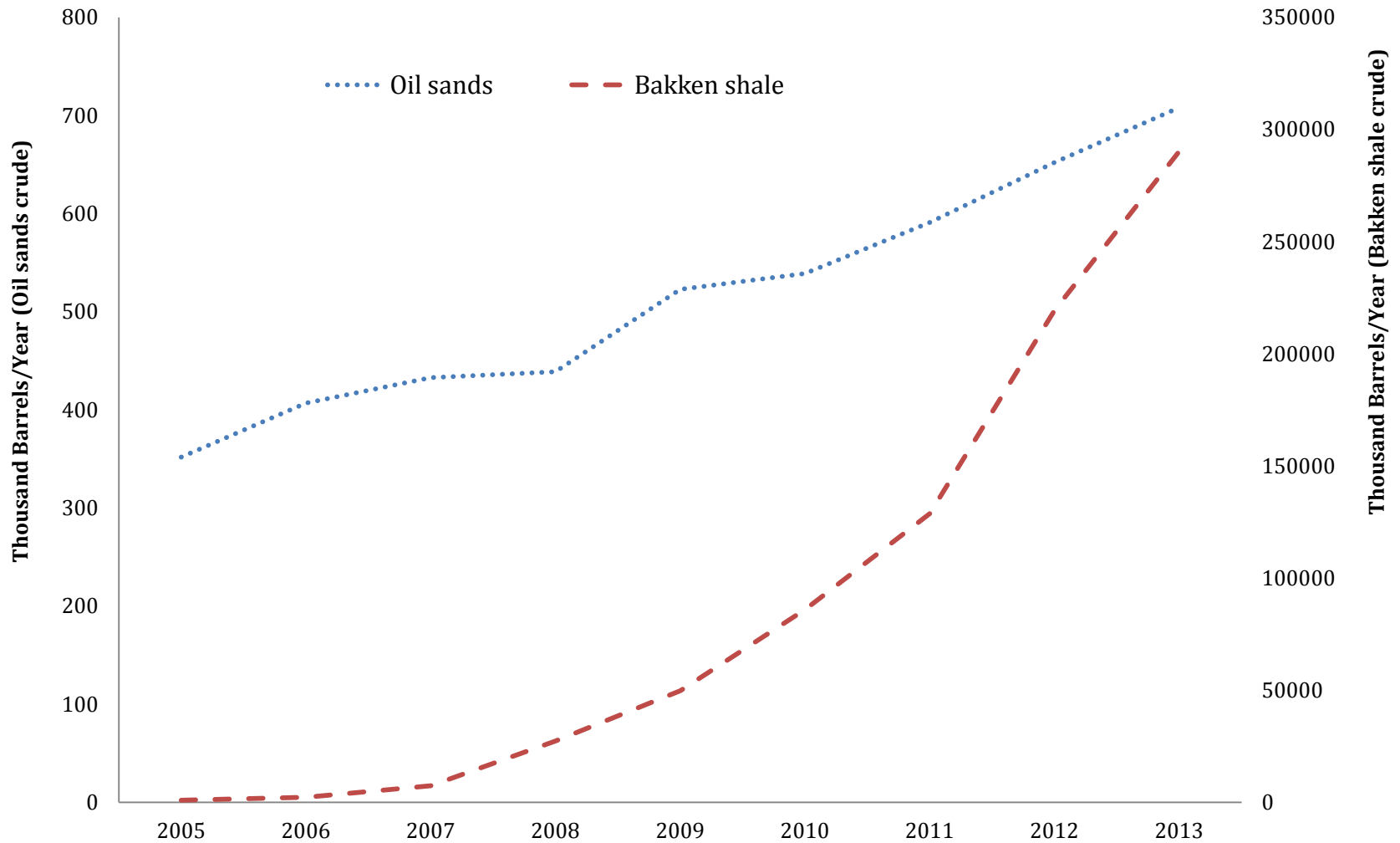
Approach to the Project

- Project scoping in winter/early spring (2014)
- Staff team assembled to conduct research and prepare issue briefs
- Researchers from Cornell authored the brief on risks and impacts
- Summary report outlines major issues and presents findings gleaned from the other briefs

Summary of Key Findings

- Dramatic increase in domestic oil production (and transportation of oil) over the past 10 years
- All modes have advantages and disadvantages
- Risks are complex and difficult to quantify
- Safety is a concern for all modes of transport
- Infrastructure issues are a concern especially for pipeline and rail transport

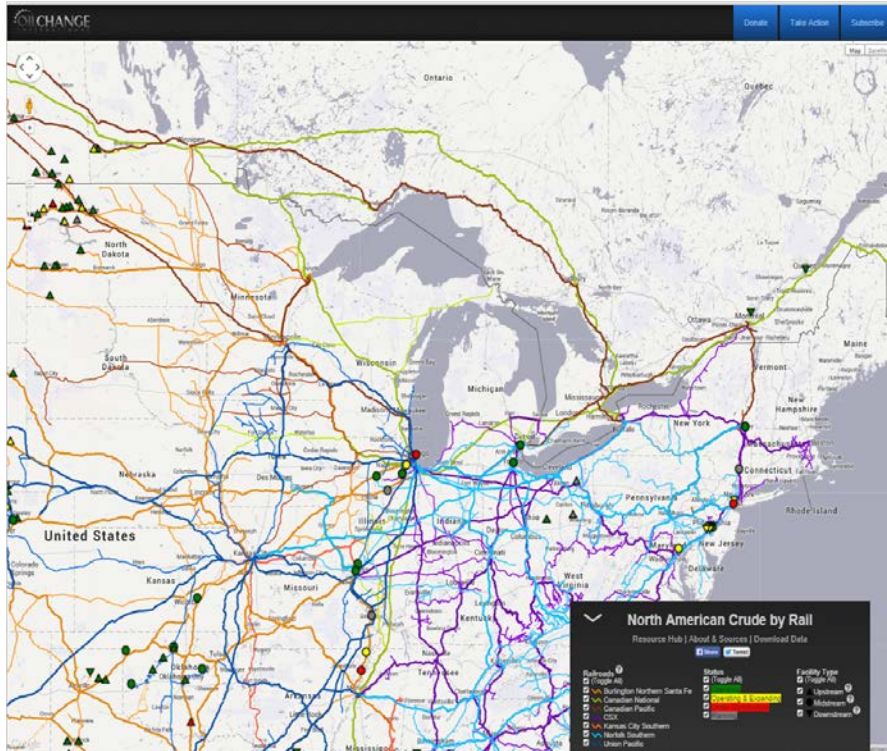
Yearly Crude Oil Production Oil sands and Bakken shale



Summary of Key Findings

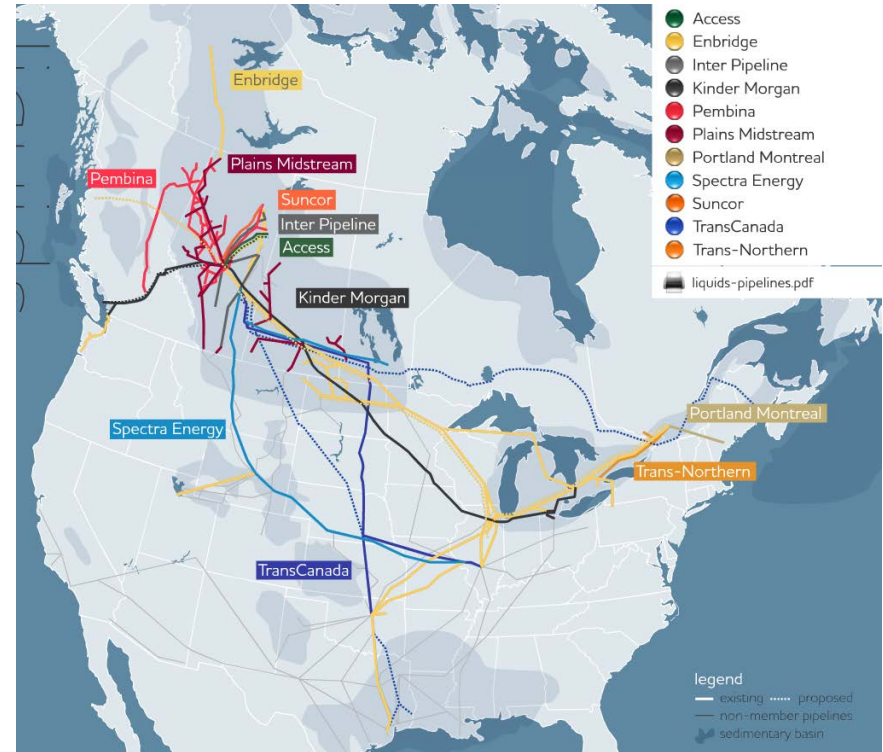
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Railroad and Pipeline Networks



Great Lakes basin railroad network

Source: priceofoil.com



North American pipeline network

Members of the
Canadian Energy Pipeline Association

Source: www.cepa.com

Summary of Key Findings

- Currently no crude oil transported by vessel on the Great Lakes
- Response technologies for heavy oil spills in open freshwater are lacking
- Increases in oil transportation (especially by rail) are outpacing regulatory, inspection and enforcement programs
- Mechanisms for communication, coordination and spill notification between jurisdictions exist but may need to be expanded

Information to be added to the briefs

- Discussion of reducing volatility of crude oil before transport
- Fuller description of state/provincial pipeline permitting programs
- Fuller description of Canadian programs governing oil transportation by vessel
- Summarize laws, policies and programs in a table

Request of Great Lakes Commissioners

- Carefully review the summary and four issue briefs
- Identify any issues/major themes not currently covered for inclusion in final report
- Identify individuals/agencies within the states and provinces to review the discussion draft
- Identify other stakeholders that should review the discussion draft

Concluding Remarks

- High governmental and societal interest in this issue
- Need to get this right – remain current, verify facts and properly understand the issues
- Action request to initiate a 60-day review by states, provinces and stakeholders
- Recommendations to follow will focus on safe transportation of crude oil, risk reduction and protection of public health and the environment

Questions?/Comments

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