

Climate Action News this week

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March 12, 2008 Edition

National News

Updated Regulatory Framework Retains 2007 Inadequacies, Ensures Massive Escalation of Oil Sands Emissions

The federal government released new details this week about its intensity-based regulatory proposal for heavy industry. Oil sands projects that begin production between 2004 and 2012 will face virtually zero regulatory obligations, and the vast majority of oil wells won't be regulated at all. The updated version retains the weak national target of 20% below 2006 by 2020, a target that falls very far short of what the science shows we need to avoid dangerous climate change.

Read the updated framework:

www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=75038EBC-1#m10

Sierra Club Canada Press Release:

www.sierraclub.ca/national/media/item.shtml?x=1487

Environmental Groups Raise Bar for Future Oil Sands Approvals

Environmental advocates have won an important victory that should lead to more responsible management of the Alberta oil sands. The case concerns Imperial Oil's Kearns project. A federal court judge has ordered the federal-Alberta panel that approved the project to explain why an intensity-based approach will reduce emissions to "insignificance", and why "3.7 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year - equivalent of 800,000 cars on the road - wouldn't be significant."

Read the story:

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080306.RIMPERIAL06/TPStory/Business

Press Releases:

www.sierraclub.ca/national/media/item.shtml?x=1477

www.ecojustice.ca/media-centre/press-releases/environmentalists-win-landmark-tar-sands-lawsuit/

www.oilsandswatch.org/media-release/1600

Previous Government Had “Made-in-Canada” Approach ready for Launch in 2006

A "made-in-Canada" approach to target industrial greenhouse-gas emissions, fight climate change and spur new technology was ready for launch in 2006, newly released federal documents have revealed....

Read the full article:

www.canada.com/news/story.html?id=365984

National Impacts Report Offers Ample Grounds for Urgent Scale-Up of Mitigation, Adaptation

The first comprehensive study in more than a decade of climate change impacts on regions across Canada presents a clear and mostly worrying portrait of the future to 2100: droughts, floods, diseases, extinctions – and a longer growing season for Ontario grapes.

Get the report:

http://adaptation.nrcan.gc.ca/assess/2007/index_e.php

News Coverage:

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080311.wclimate11/BNStory/National/?page=rss&id=RTGAM.20080311.wclimate11

CAN-RAC Press Release:

www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008/cc-report-2008-03-10.html

Environmental Organizations Launch First-Ever National Roadmap on Environment

Concerned about the lack of political leadership on urgent issues such as climate change, Canada's leading environmental organizations have come to a groundbreaking consensus around a roadmap for action, entitled *Tomorrow Today: How Canada can make a world of difference*.

Get the report: www.tomorrowtodaycanada.ca/en_full_report.php

World News

Washington Studies Ways to Protect Tar Sands from Energy Bill Exclusion

A U.S. government interdepartmental working group has been given the task of finding a way to reclassify tar sands oil as no dirtier than conventional oil. The move follows an intense period of lobbying by Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall. Also, U.S. Ambassador Michael Wilson sent a formal letter to U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates requesting a less than "expansive" interpretation of the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act. The reclassification would clear the way for federal procurement of fuel made from tar sands oil. A decision will be made this spring.

Read Wilson's letter:

www.ft.com/cms/s/3310a3d0-ee0d-11dc-a5c1-0000779fd2ac,Authorised=false.html?_i_location=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ft.com%2Fcms%2Fs%2F0%2F3310a3d0-ee0d-11dc-a5c1-0000779fd2ac.html&_i_referer=

News coverage:

www.nationalpost.com/news/canada/story.html?id=366042

EU Told to Get Ready for Massive Influx of Climate Change Migrants

The EU is about to be hit with the real consequences of unmitigated climate change, say two of its top officials. The EU Chief Foreign Policy Coordinator and the European Commissioner for External Relations are telling European governments to prepare for rapidly increasing pressures from "millions of environmental migrants" heading their way within the next 10 years. For this and other reasons, they argue climate change must be fought as a "serious security risk."

Media articles:

www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/mar/10/climatechange.eu
www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/mar/10/eu.climatechange

"Madam Chairman, I am not stonewalling." — EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson

Appearing before the U.S. Senate Appropriations environment subcommittee last week, EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson said he did not know when he would comply with last year's Supreme Court directive ordering him to decide if GHG emissions are a danger to public health. If they are, the EPA would have to regulate them. Johnson testified that he does not know who or how many of his employees are working on the issue.

Meanwhile, a bill introduced in the House of Representatives last Thursday could override the EPA's decision to deny California its waiver, and 19 union leaders representing 10,000 EPA employees have broken with EPA management over the issue.

Read the stories:

www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2008/03/04/ap4730057.html

www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSN0643559520080306

www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/03/10/AR2008031002371.html

Japan to Champion Intensity-Based, Sectoral Approach for Post 2012 UN Agreement

Host to the G8 Summit in July, Japan has begun pushing an approach for reducing global GHG emissions using intensity-based targets established for various industries within 8 major sectors. Each country would add up all of the industry targets to obtain a national reduction goal. There would be no national caps.

Read the story:

www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200803050159.html

Queen Elizabeth Calls for Action on Climate Change

Queen Elizabeth used her annual Commonwealth Day speech on March 10th to talk about the impacts of climate change on countries that pollute the least, and to urge developed countries to help them "bring about lasting change."

Read the story:

http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5j_pvSxp_aBBC1K0GrDazLrz6VRcA

www.canada.com/topics/news/world/story.html?id=edd87642-4106-4420-9a50-7c517b6fa6a1

Across Canada

Ontario Opens Climate Change Secretariat

Following B.C.'s lead, Ontario has hired a climate change czar to head up its new Climate Change Secretariat. Hugh McLeod's job will be to coordinate and drive results among the various government ministries responsible for climate change issues.

News story:

www.thestar.com/SpecialSections/EarthHour/article/310366

CAN-RAC Press Release:

www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008/ontario-ccs-2008-03-07.html

Get Involved

Youth Guide to Action - the international youth portal TakingitGlobal has released a useful guide for young people eager to push change. "Feel free to play with it, post it, use it and abuse it!" says P.J. Partington of the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition. Get it at: http://tig.phpwebhosting.com/guidetoaction/Climate_Guide_to_Action_en.pdf

Earth Hour – This March 29th at 8:30 PM people all over the world will turn off their lights for one hour in solidarity for urgent global action. Read more at www.earthhour.org and don't forget to switch off on the 29th!

Fossil Fuels Day of Youth Action – Canadian youth are being called to action for April 1st. Go to <http://actions.energyactioncoalition.org/fossilfools> to find an action near you, or better still, organize your own!

Green Cars – Do you want cars that are truly fuel-efficient? Tell it to the federal government today at www.cleancarscanada.ca.

Western Climate Initiative – WCI has posted its draft design recommendations from the "Electricity" and "Scope" committees. These include public comments received to date. You now have the opportunity to comment again before March 17th through the WCI website. To read the recommendations and submit comments go to: www.westernclimateinitiative.org/WCI_Documents.cfm

Looking Ahead

March 12-14	2008 GLOBE Business & Environment Conference, Vancouver
March 14-16	G8/Gleneagles "Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development" (Chiba, Japan)
March 13	Quebec budget
March 31-April 4	First Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Bali Action Plan, (Bangkok, Thailand)
April 1	Fossil Fuels Day of Youth Action http://actions.energyactioncoalition.org/fossilfools

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