

Native Prairie is Threatened by Coal to Liquids Technology



Saskatchewan has large amounts of undeveloped coal resources. Coal mined in Saskatchewan is for export, used in coal-based power plants for the generation of electricity, and as barbecue briquettes. Many of Saskatchewan's coal beds rest below some of the last stands of native prairie or other lands formerly protected under the Wildlife Habitat Protection Act (WHPA). Continued development of this resource threatens the ecological integrity of the prairie landscape.

Expiration of conventional oil fields promotes innovation for alternative sources of energy. Coal to Liquids (CTL) technology exists, and energy firms are prospecting Saskatchewan coal beds for use in the production of fuel. CTL industries are non-renewable fossil fuel industries.

NuCoal Energy Corp. has large properties of coal resources in Southern

Saskatchewan, with the intention of building a CTL plant for the export of liquid fuel and uranium. NuCoal has termed their proposal the "South 50 Project" for its location south of the 50th parallel. Unfortunately, many of the lands this resource occupies is covered or surrounded by native prairies and historical and sacred sites.

Protection of native prairies has become a popular movement by many people in Saskatchewan. The occurrence of coal and native prairie on the same lands seriously concerns conservationists of wildlife and archeological sites. The introduction of a CTL industry in southern Saskatchewan undermines efforts to protect native prairie. Consideration for the greater eco-region of these lands is crucial for conservation.

For more information, or to find out what you can do to help, call (306) 525-1746 or e-mail mktcircle@gmail.com.

Coal to Liquids Technology Frequently Asked Questions

What is Coal to Liquids technology?

- Coal to Liquids technology transforms coal into a variety of products including diesel, hydrogen, fertilizers, synthetic natural gas, synthesis gas for power generation, and CO₂ for enhanced oil recovery.



Open Pit mining near Coronach

What is Peak Uranium?

- Peak Uranium is the same concept as Peak Oil. As conventional deposits of uranium expire, production begins to decline. All finite resources endure the same process of expiration.

Can Uranium be mined from Coal?

- Lignite coal in Saskatchewan contains small amounts of uranium and is considered uniferous lignite coal. The technology is feasible and has been done in the past.

Can Archeological sites be protected from open pit mines?

- No. Many such sites are also considered sacred and are vulnerable to vandalism, drilling, mining, and agricultural tilling.



Saskatchewan's Big Muddy region

Who is NuCoal?

- NuCoal Energy Corp. is a firm with mineral rights to large properties of Saskatchewan coal resources. They have a business plan to develop a large CTL plant in southern Saskatchewan termed the "South 50 Project", which will produce 150,000 barrels/day of fuel and uranium from the coal ash. For more information go to www.nucoalenergy.ca.

Where is Coal mined in Saskatchewan?

- Saskatchewan currently has three operational coal mines. The Estevan Area has two mines, and a third operates in near Coronach. Combined, they produce approximately 10 million tones of coal per year. The coal is extracted from open pit mines using the dragline method.



Native prairie near Val Marie

Where do Coal and Native Prairies coincide?

- Saskatchewan's native prairie remains intact in patches throughout the province. The largest coal bed is the Ravenscrag Coal Formation in the southwest part of Saskatchewan near Cypress Hills. Subterranean deposits of Coal in the Cypress basin, Wood Mountain basin, and Willow Bunch basin are covered or surrounded by large swaths of native prairie and is the site for NuCoal's "South 50 Project".