

I think that the proposal (reference number: 59540) by Shell Canada Limited to expand the Jackpine Mine project should be rejected. The proposal should be rejected because expansion will lead to a dangerous and unacceptable amount of pollution to the bio-physical and human environments.

There are a number of site specific environmental impacts that will be adverse to the point of being considered unacceptable. Shell Canada Limited has stated that it estimates that 40% of high quality caribou habitat will be destroyed (The Canadian Press, 2012).

Scientists at both Environment Canada and Ocean and Fisheries Canada have stated that Shell Canada Limited has not adequately demonstrated how toxins will be kept in tailing ponds (The Canadian Press, 2012). Shell Canada Limited has not released any scientifically sound and accepted studies to show that their proposed tailings ponds will keep toxins from polluting the surrounding bio-physical and human environments.

Of a general concern is the seeming lack of credibility to many of Shell Canada Limited's statements. The proposal that Shell Canada Limited has submitted is not supported by scientifically sound studies or information. Federal scientists have expressed concern that Shell Canada Limited does not seem to understand the potential cumulative effects of its proposed development (The Canadian Press, 2012).

Shell Canada Limited's proposal should not only be rejected because of unacceptable levels of site specific pollution. The pollution emitted if this expansion is approved will have dire national and global impacts. Approving this project will lead to significant increases in Carbon Dioxide emission which has been identified as the leading cause of global climate change. Climate Change is already occurring and has already had many detrimental impacts. The following quote quite effectively summarize the scientific consensus on climate change, humans' role in climate change and the need for immediate and decisive action aimed at emissions reduction.

"The science on climate change has never been more certain: Every national academy of science in the world, every professional scientific society, and 98 percent of climate scientists most actively publishing all agree that man made climate change is happening now and that urgent action by governments and businesses is necessary now." This quote is from a group of practising scientists who formed a group called the Arctic Methane Emergency Group. Retrieved from [www.arctic-methane-emergency-group.org](http://www.arctic-methane-emergency-group.org)

As a nation we need to begin efforts to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases that we admit in order to mitigate climate change. "Unmitigated climate change would, in the long term, be *likely* to exceed the capacity of natural, managed and human systems to adapt." From the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change Report 2007, Synthesis Report, 6.3 Responses to climate change. URL: [http://www.ipcc.ch/publications\\_and\\_data/ar4/syr/en/mains6-3.html](http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/syr/en/mains6-3.html)

In conclusion I think that the proposal (reference number: 59540) by Shell Canada Limited to expand the Jackpine Mine project should be rejected. There is scientifically sound information to suggest that a host of site specific and global pollution problems will occur that are unacceptable if this project is approved.

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References:

The Canadian Press, (2012, August 27). Federal Scientists Still Wary of Shell's Jackpine Oilsands Expansion. *CBCNews*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/story/2012/08/27/sci-cp-jackpine-oilsands-shell-scientists.html>