# ESG risk mitigation in Canada's Oil Sands

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#### Our recent work on Oil Sands

- Report on carbon risk: "Head in the Oil Sands"
- Worked with banks on climate-related credit risk
- Alberta oil sands consultations position: no new approvals without strategic land use planning
- Ongoing ESG evaluation of oil sands companies
- Ongoing shareholder action with oil sands companies



## Why more focus on Oil Sands?

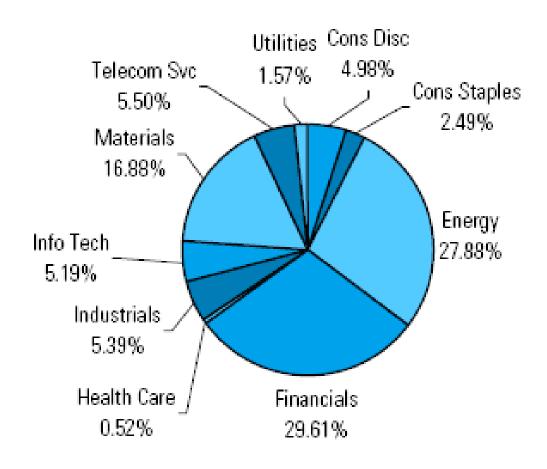
- Increasing exposure (more companies involved)
- "Head in the Oil Sands" highlighted gaps in companies' carbon risk mitigation
- Variety of oil sands company-specific ESG risks
- Potential solutions for some risks
- Pace of development ahead of mitigation capacity
- New report scheduled for publication in October



# Why more focus on Oil Sands?

Sector Breakdown

Source: S&P/TSX Composite Fact Sheet Information date: December 31, 2007





# Oil Sands background

- Why the rush into oil sands?
  - Shrinking conventional oil reserves in unstable regions
  - Recognition of extent of oil sands reserves
  - Economics of oil sands improved
  - Provincial and federal governments supportive
  - US is major customer, Asian companies entering
- "When you're in, you're in"
  - Long-term commitment: high investment requirement compared to conventional oil
  - Most projects not yet at construction stage



# Oil Sands Companies - selected

Company	Operating	Construction	Approved	Application
Suncor	Х	Х	Х	Х
Canadian Oil Sands Trust (Syncrude)	Х			Х
Petro-Canada	Х		Х	Х
CNRL	Х	X	Х	
Synenco				Х
Imperial	Х		Х	
ExxonMobil			X	
EnCana	Х	Х	Х	Х
Husky	Х		X	
ВР	Х		X	
Nexen	X			Х
Connacher	X			Х
OPTI		X	X	
Shell	Х	X	X	Х
Chevron	Х	X	X	Х
Marathon	Х	X	X	Х
Total	Х			Х
ConocoPhillips	Х		X	
Devon		X		Х
StatoilHydro (NAOSC)		X		Х
JACOS (JAPEX)	Х			
Sinopec				X



# **Aspects of Oil Sands ESG risk**

- Litigious risk
- Asset retirement obligations
- Regulatory risk
- Social license risk
- Strategy and cumulative impacts



# Litigious risk

- First Nations litigation
- US/International O&G companies (and investors) may be unfamiliar with risk potential



# **Asset retirement obligations**

- Are we getting a true picture of liabilities?
  - OSC staff notice highlights inadequate disclosure
  - Adequacy of posted oil sands reclamation bonds?
  - Is reclamation possible?
- Standard corporate response



# Regulatory risk

- (Weak) carbon regulations coming in
  - Federal GHG regulations
  - Alberta GHG regulations
- Regime only likely to get tougher over time
  - Carbon tax in BC
  - Opposition parties call for tougher policies
- Putting faith in CCS over best practices?



### **Social license**

- Attitudes of Albertans and Canadians
  - Environment
  - O&G companies
  - Oil sands development
- US regulatory demand risk
  - Low Carbon Fuel Standards
- Reputational risk negative media



## Strategy and cumulative impacts

- Oil Sands development must be better managed
- Strategic land use planning with stakeholders, cap on cumulative impact
- No more project approvals before strategic plan



### **Discussion**

- Do these oil sands risks resonate for investors?
- What other oil sands issues/risks resonate for investors?

