

# Canadian Oil Sands: Development and Future Outlook

## IV International Workshop on Oil and Gas Depletion

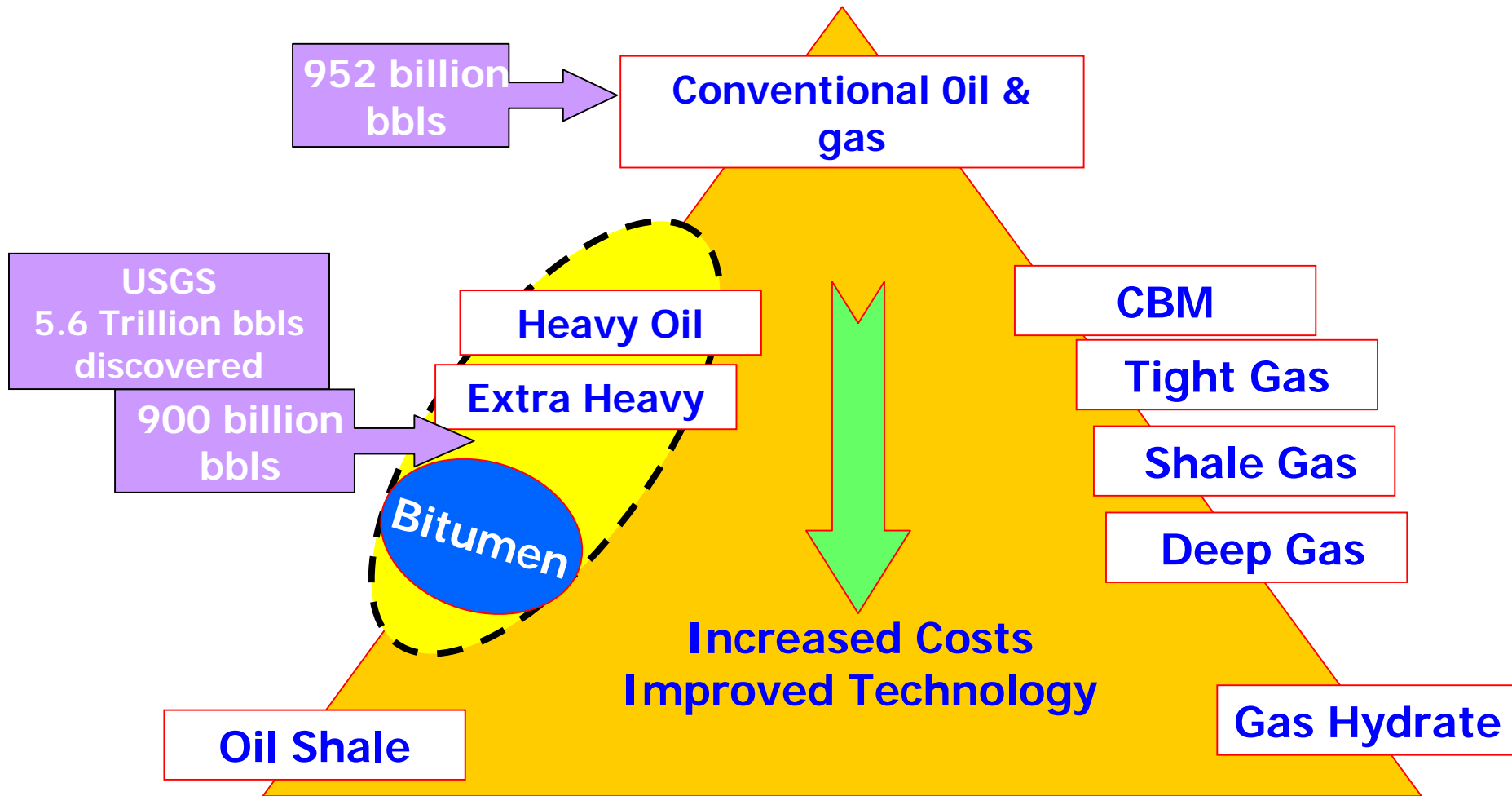
May 19 – 20, 2005

*Eddy Isaacs  
Managing Director  
Alberta Energy Research Institute*

*[WWW.AERI.AB.CA](http://WWW.AERI.AB.CA)*



# Conventional vs. Unconventional Resources

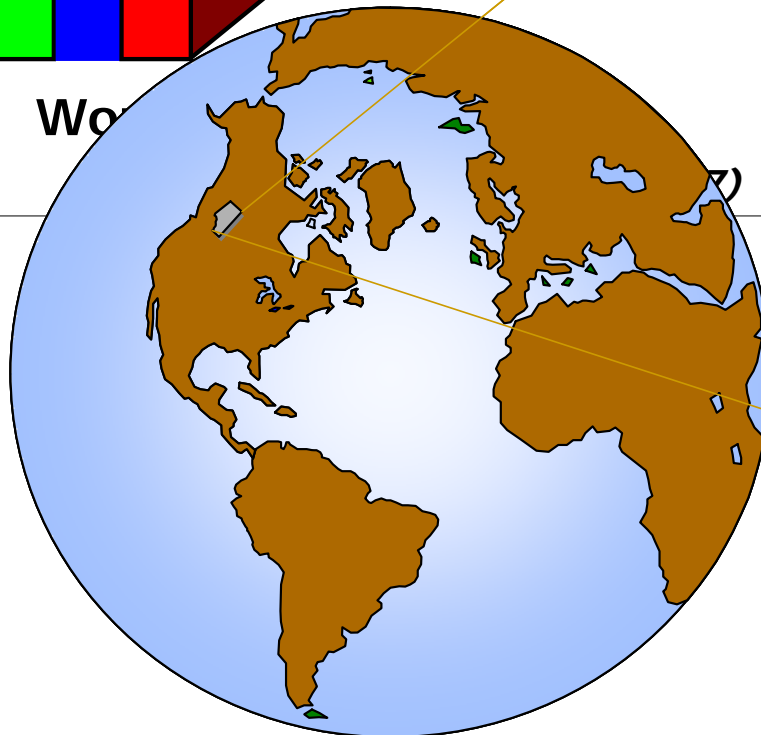
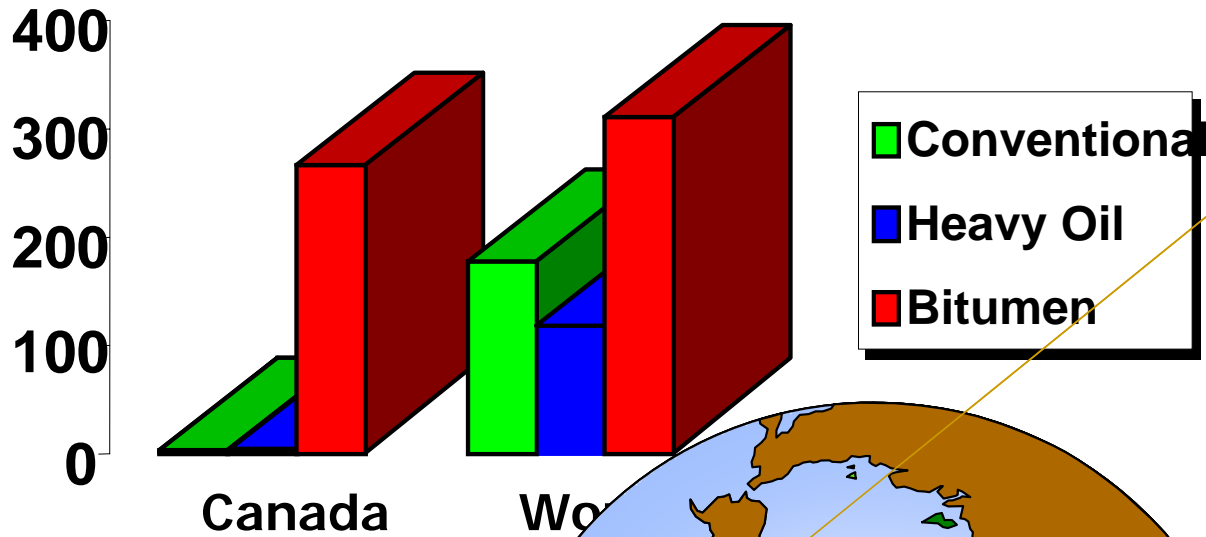


Modified from Holditch (2002) & Etherington (2005)

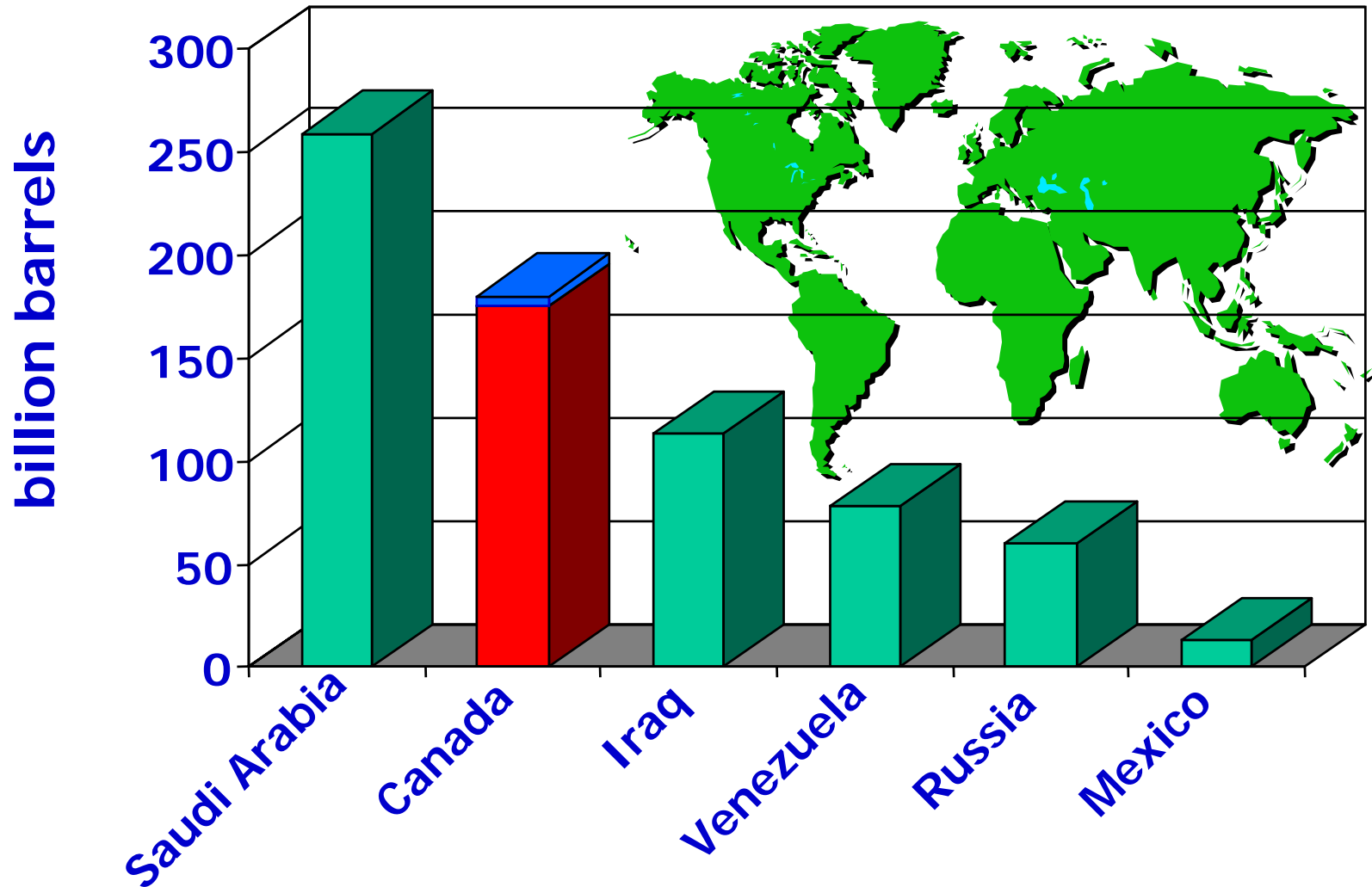
# Canadian Oil Sands – Huge Resources

(billion m<sup>3</sup>)

## Canadian vs. World Oil Resources

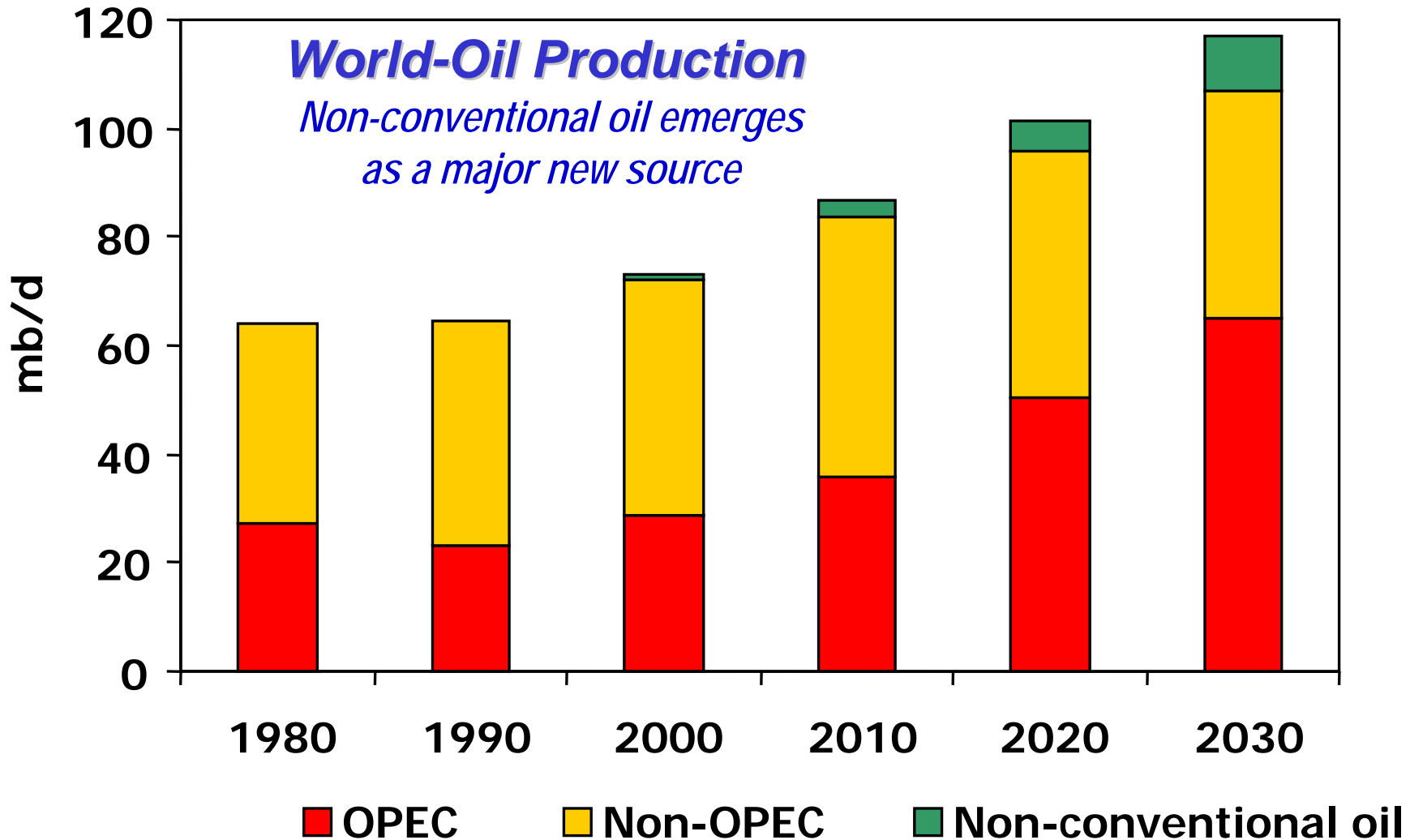


# *Proven World Reserves*



Sources: *Oil and Gas Journal* – Dec 2002, AEUB

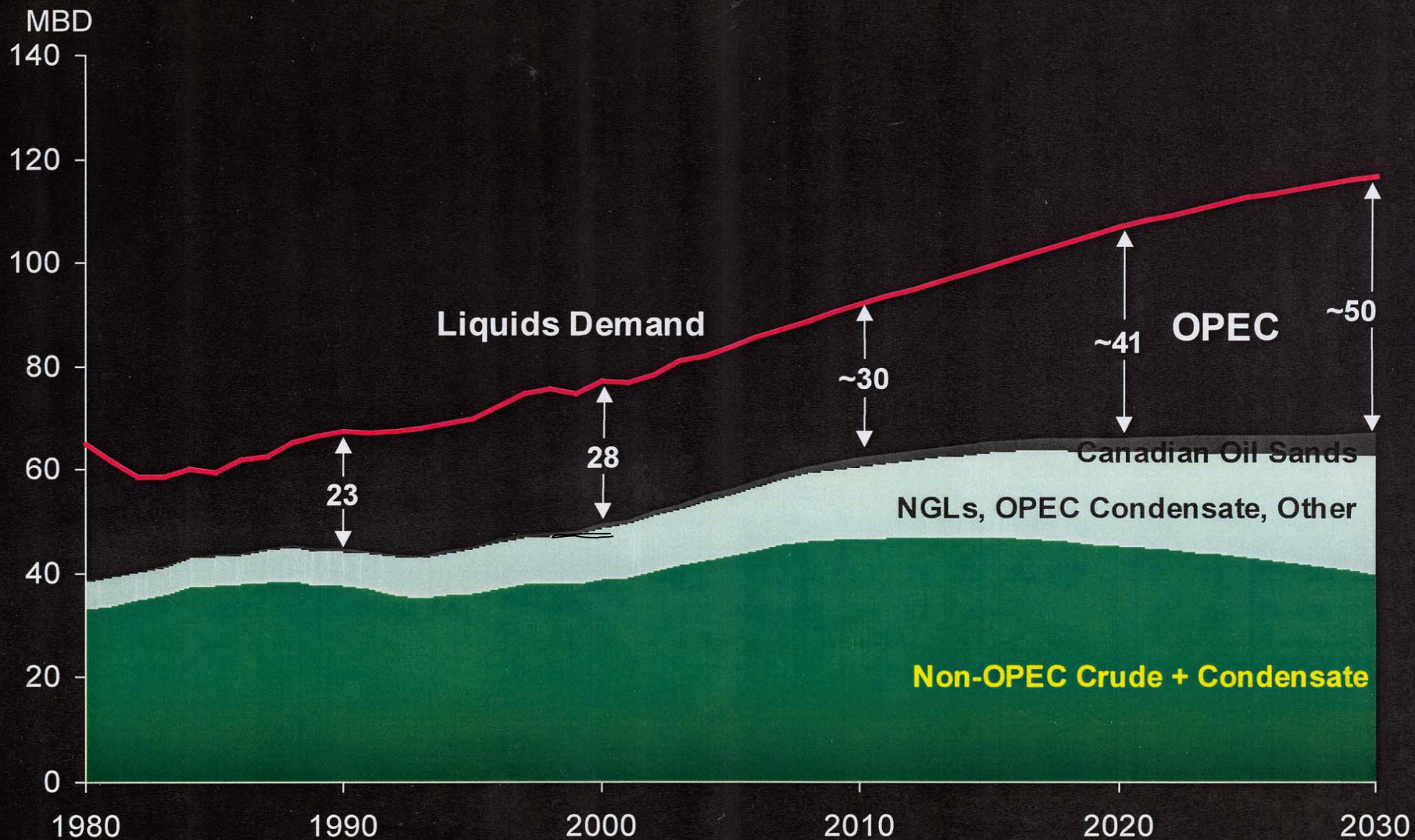
# *How Much will Non-conventional Oil Contribute?*



*Courtesy: International Energy Agency, World Energy Outlook (2002)*



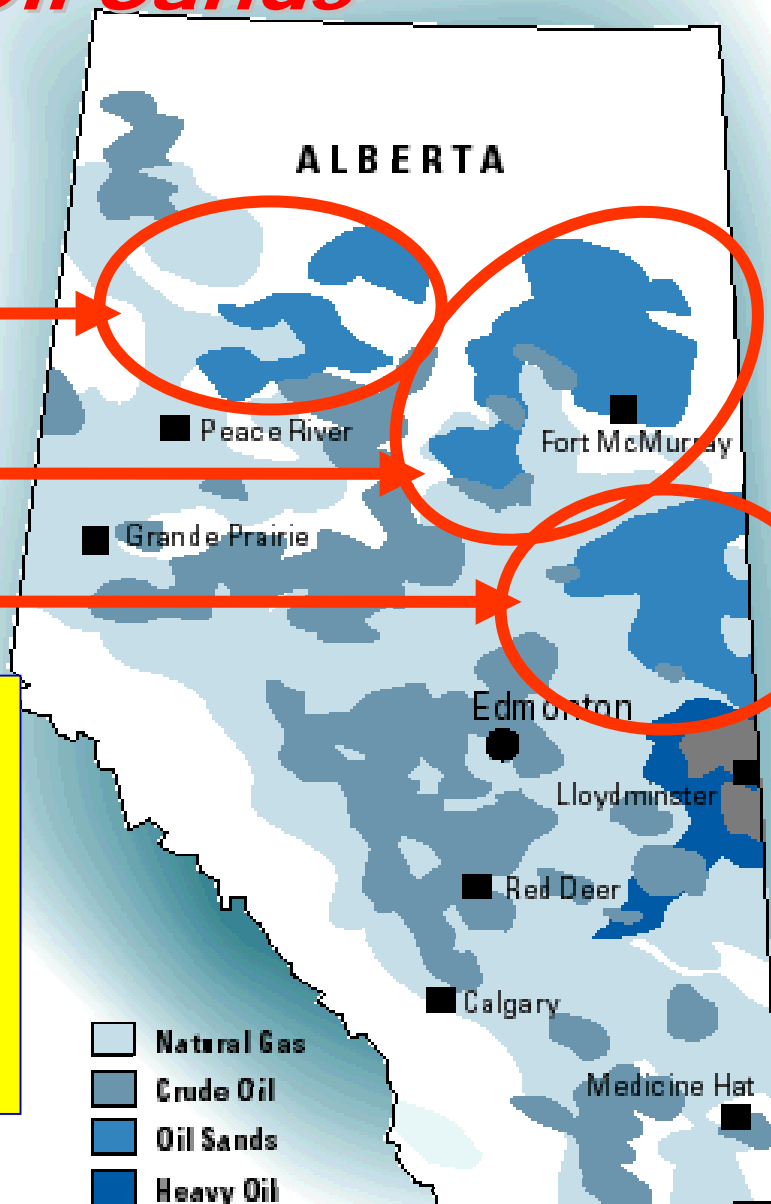
# World Liquids Production Outlook



# Canada's Oil Sands

Three locations:

- Peace River
- Athabasca
- Cold Lake



## Reserves (2003 - EUB)

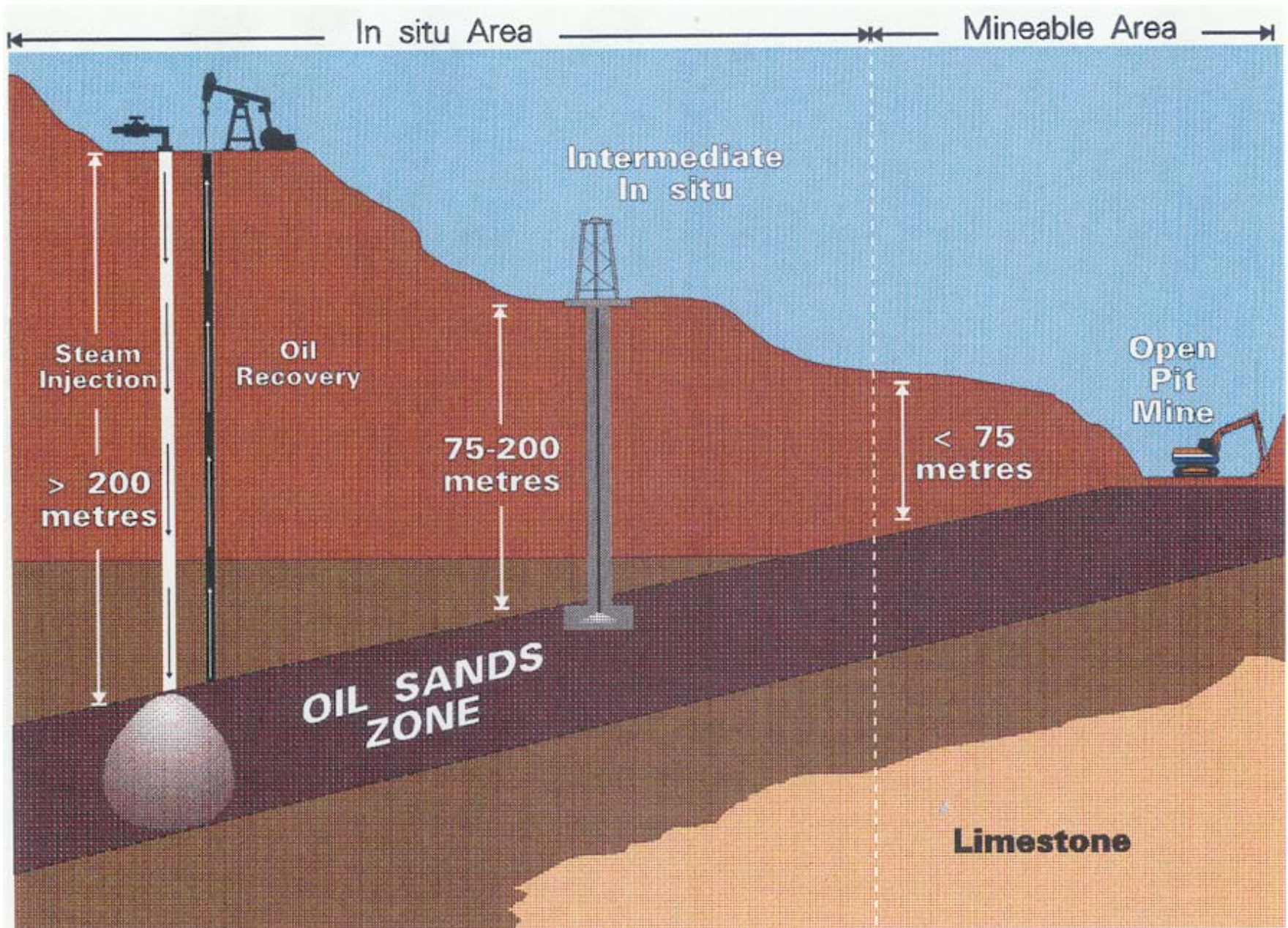
(Billion Barrels)

Oil Sands      Conv.

<i>In Place</i>	1,629	62
<i>Remaining Est.</i>	175	2
<i>Rem. Ult. Pot'l</i>	310	5

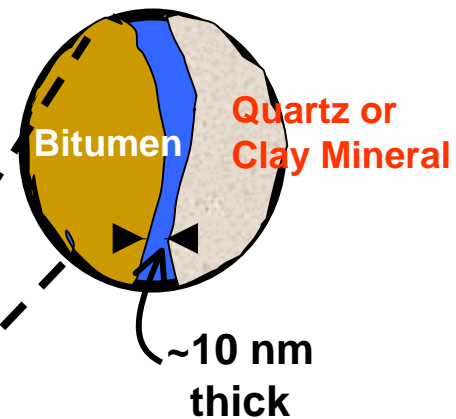
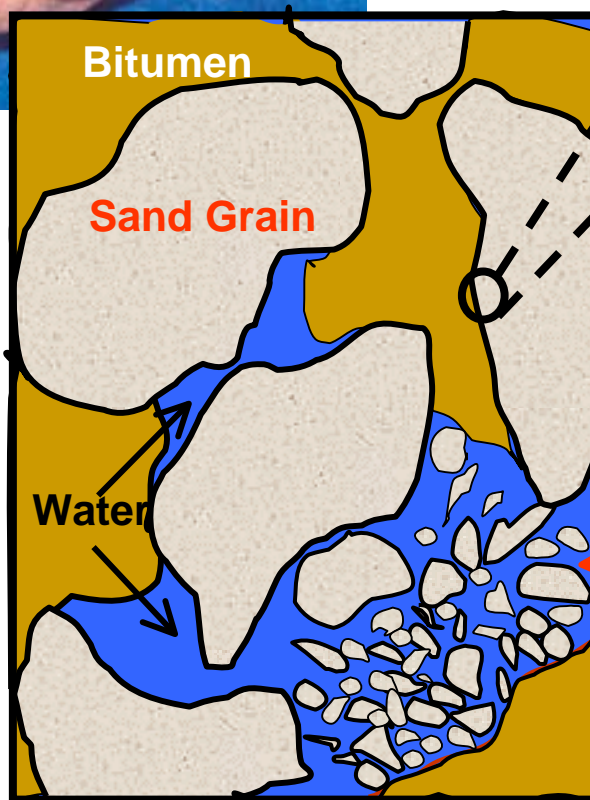


# The Nature of the Oil Sands Resource





# *Oil Sands* *What is special?*

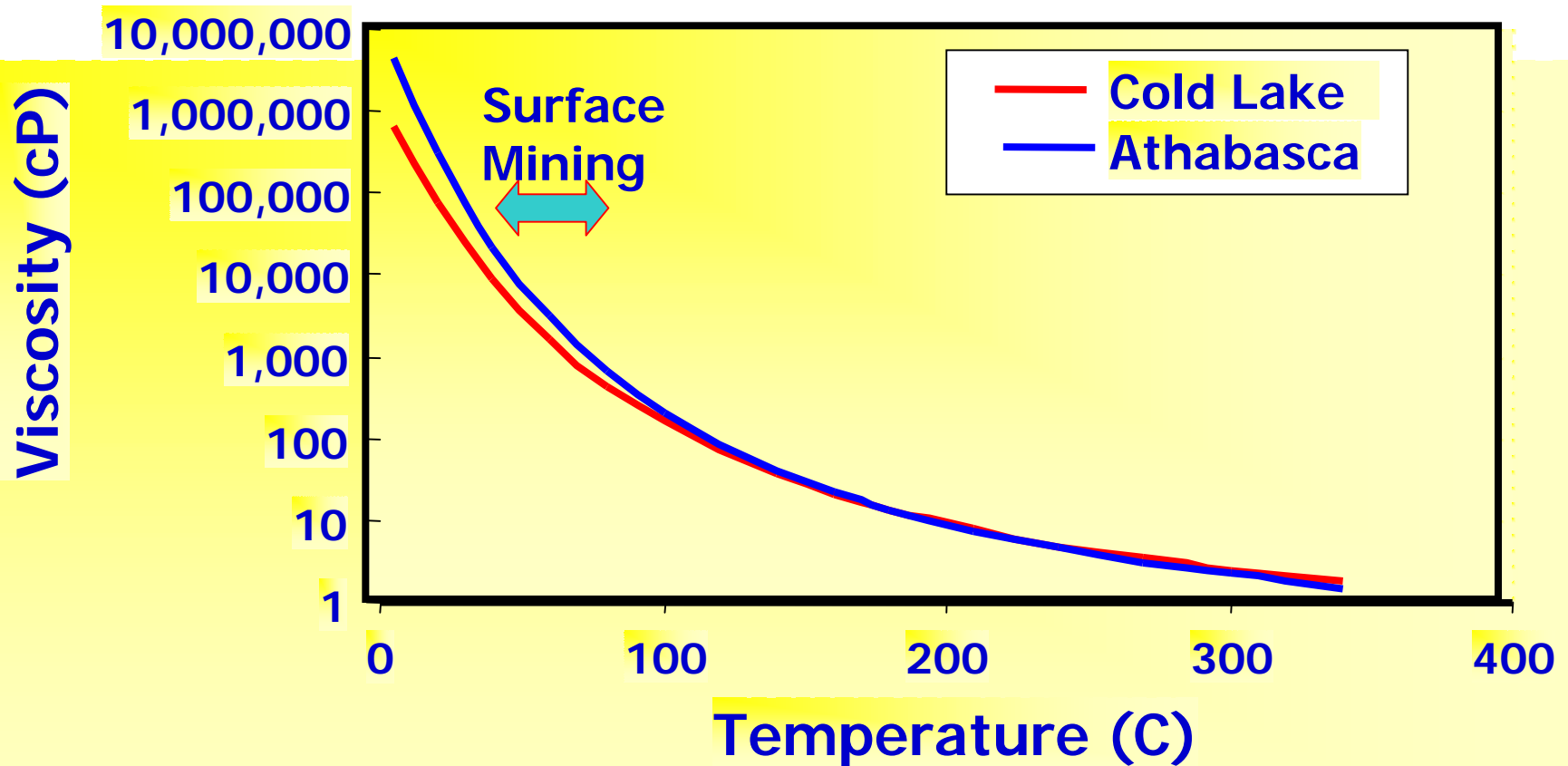


*“Technology Oil “  
Continuous Innovation Since the 1930’s*



**From Oil Sands** —————> **To Bitumen** —————> **to Synthetic Crude Oil**

# Producing Bitumen – Surface Mining





# Innovation in Mining Technology

## From Draglines to Shovel & Truck Operations



1970



2000



# *400 tonne Ore Trucks*



# Slurry Hydrotransport – Remote Mine (Separation during flow)





# *Mining Extraction to Produce Bitumen*

## Mining

Draglines, Bucketwheels  
& Conveyor Systems

Truck & Shovel  
Feed System

Hydrotransport  
System

Oil Sand

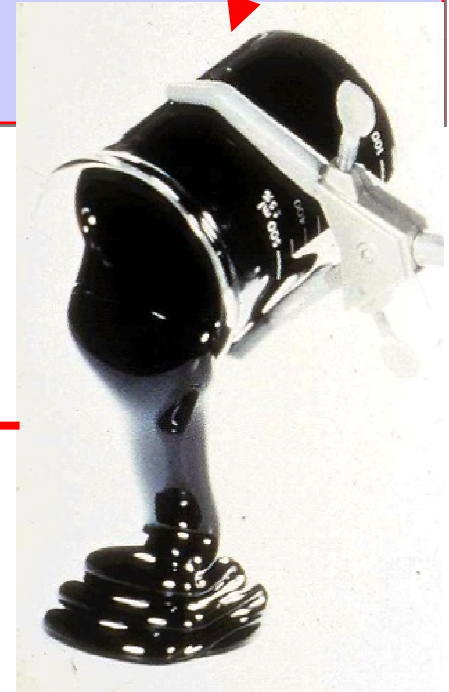
Tumblers

Primary  
Separation  
Vessel

Froth  
Treatment

Oil Sand Slurry

Upgrading



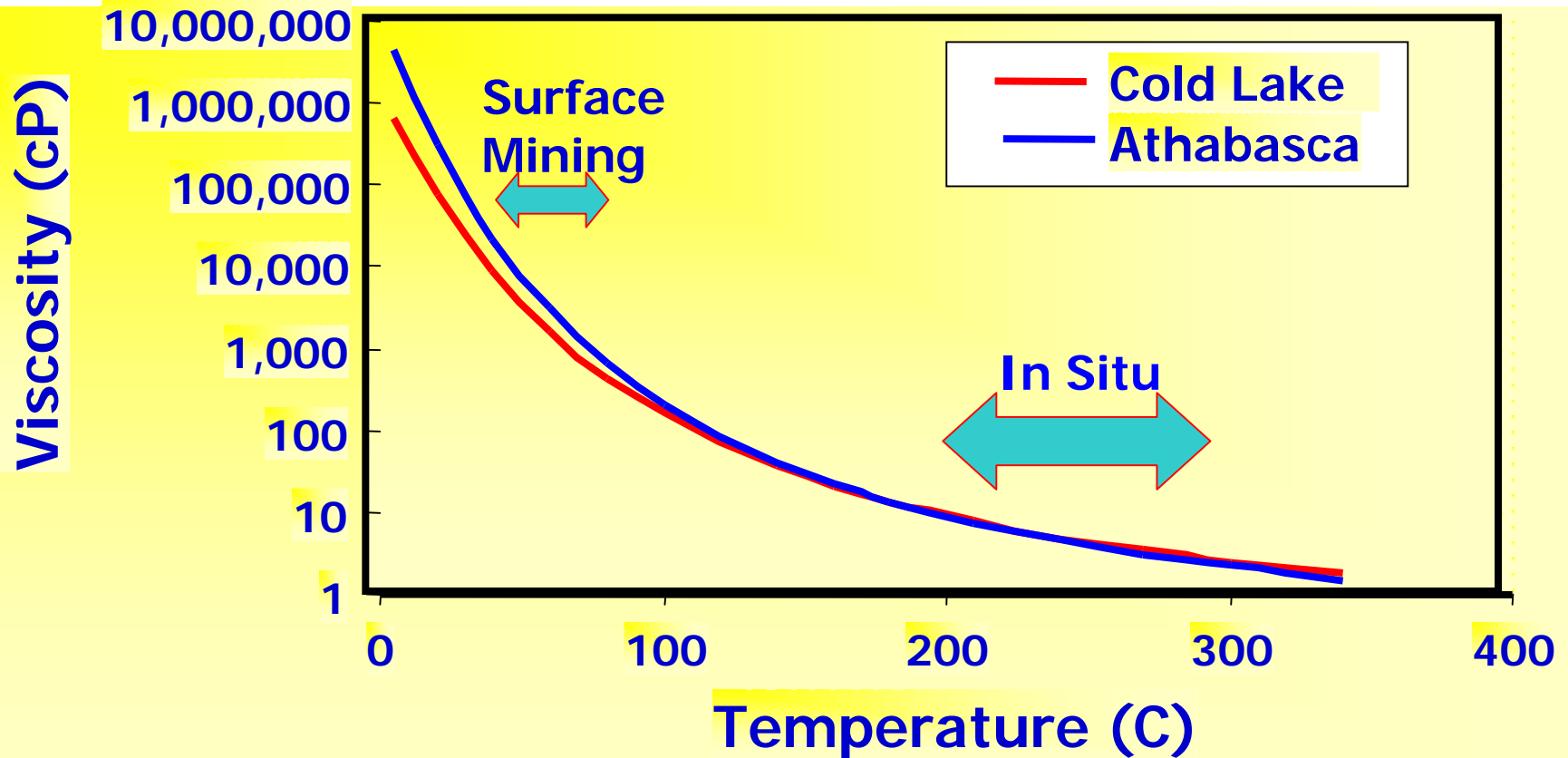
# ***Mining Projects – Who is playing the game***

<b>1980</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005+</b>
<b>Suncor</b> <b>Syncrude</b>	<b>Suncor</b> <b>Syncrude</b>	<b>Suncor</b> <b>Syncrude</b> <b>Albian/Shell</b> <b>CNRL</b> <b>Imperial</b> <b>Synenco</b> <b>Fort Hills</b>

*Not an all inclusive list*

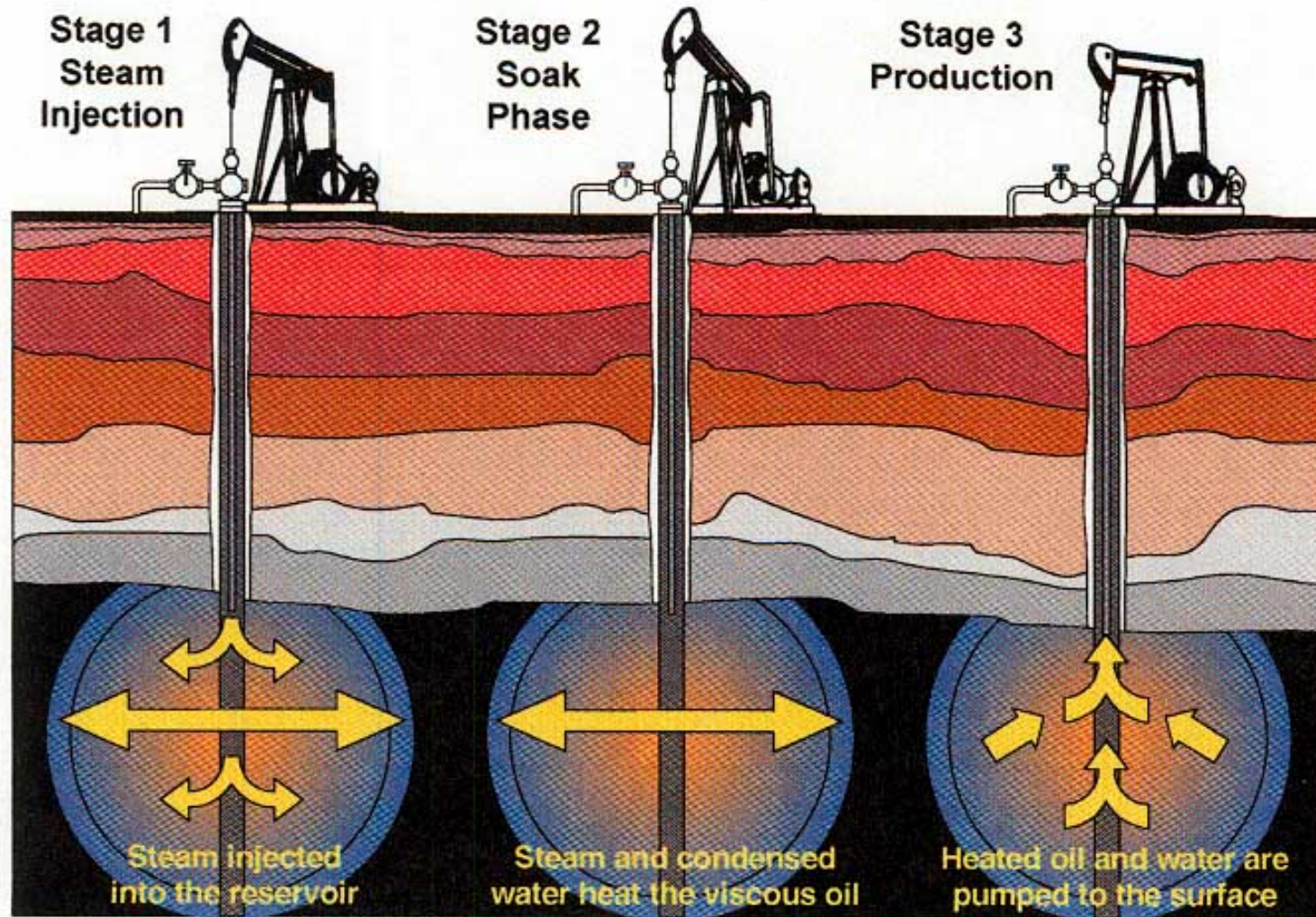


# Producing Bitumen – In Situ



# *In Situ Production Technology*

## *Cyclic Steam Stimulation Process*



# *Drilling Technology Minimizes Land Disturbance*

Imperial Oil Cold  
Lake - Cyclic  
Steam Project  
125,000 bbl/day

# Steam Assisted Gravity Drainage (SAGD)- Schematic

SAGD Facility

-horizontal drilling

-Moderate pressure steam (500 psi)

-50% - 70% oil in place recovery

Courtesy Neil Edmunds, EnCana

Oil Producer

Steam Injector

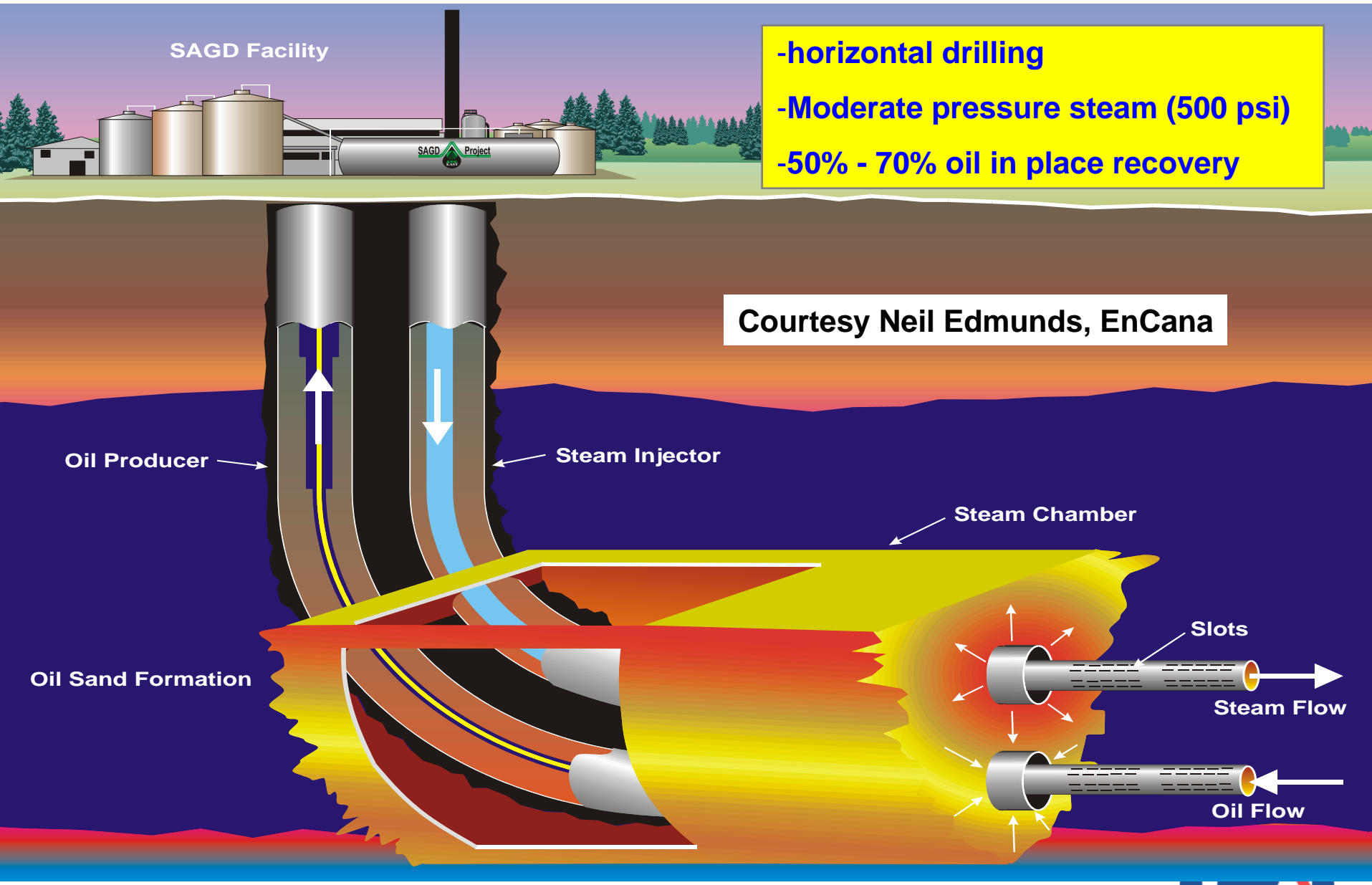
Steam Chamber

Oil Sand Formation

Slots

Steam Flow

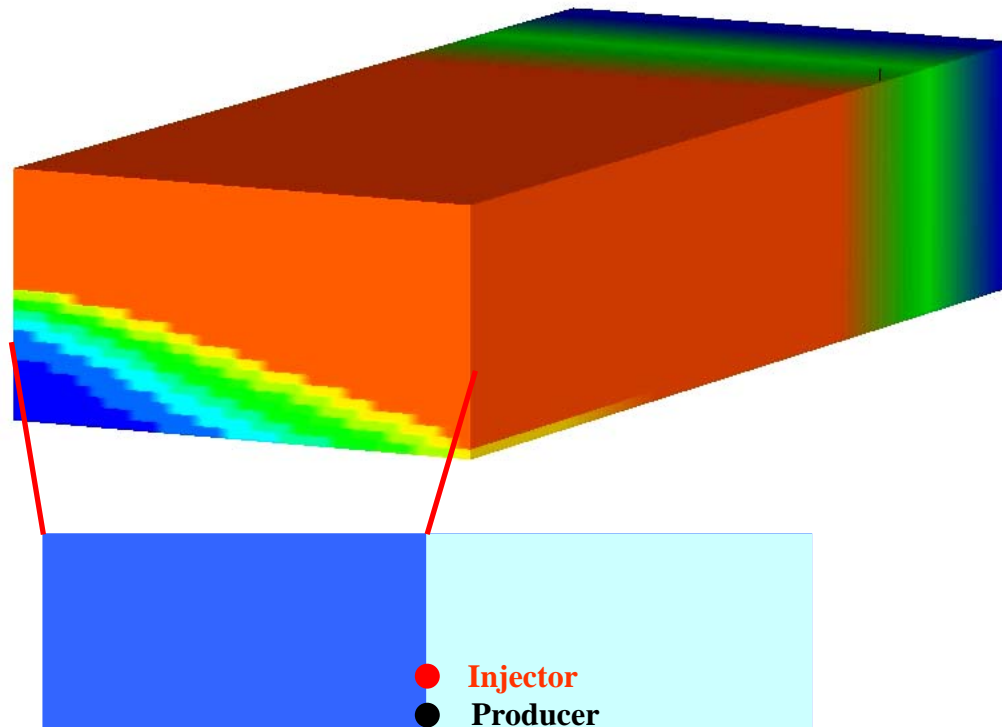
Oil Flow



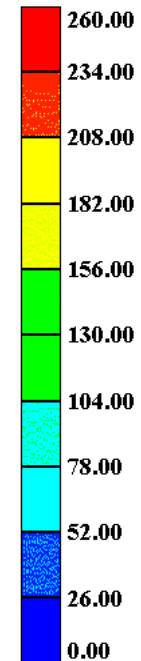


# Gravity Drainage Concept (SAGD Process)

## Steam Chamber Development



Temperature  
(°C)

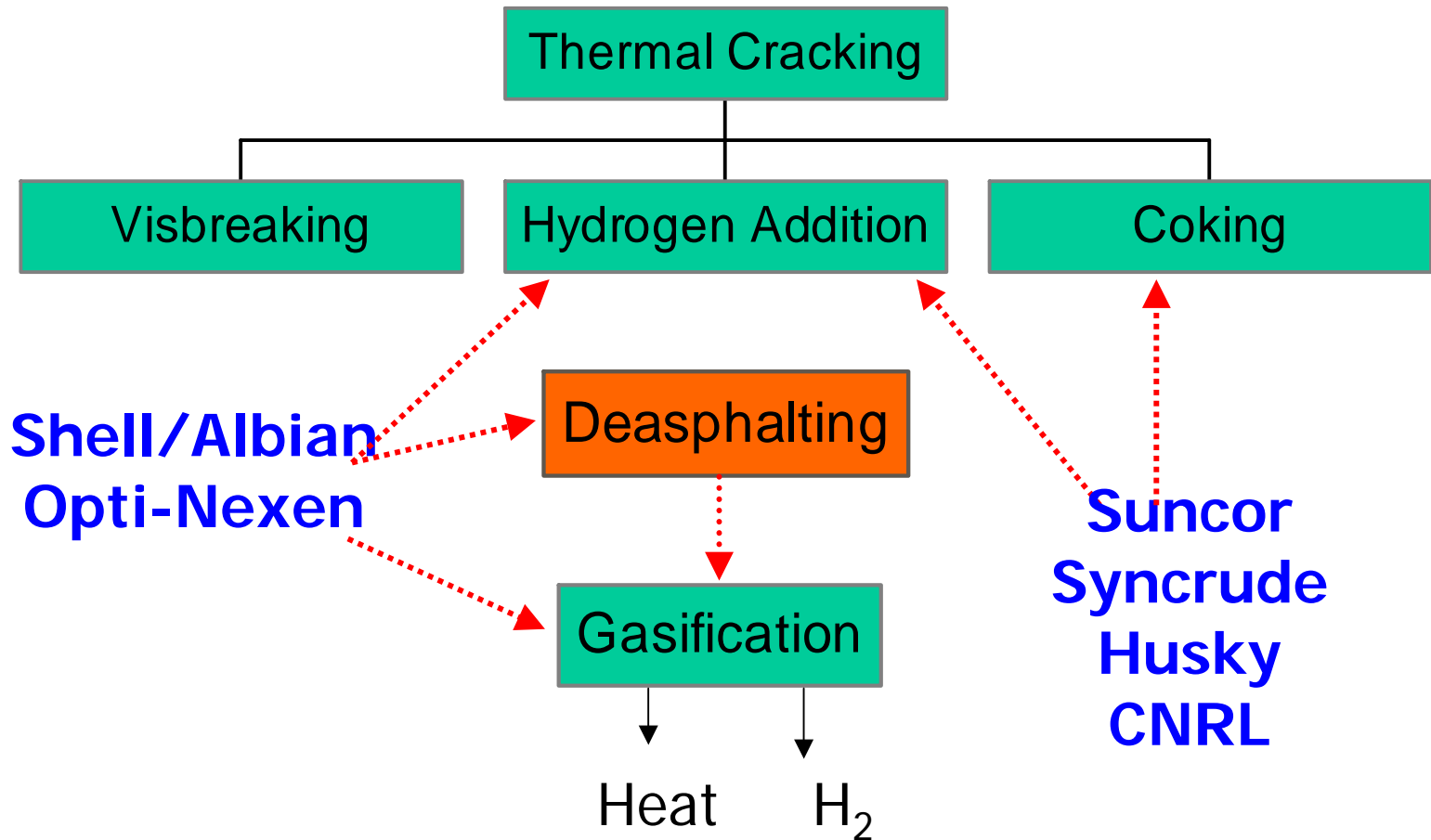


# In Situ *Projects* – *Who is playing the game?*

1980	2000	2005+	
<p>Imperial</p> <p>Numerous Experimental Projects</p>	<p>Imperial</p> <p>AEC</p> <p>CNRL</p> <p>Shell</p> <p>PanCdn</p> <p>Numac</p> <p>Northstar</p> <p>Murphy</p>	<p>Imperial</p> <p>Encana</p> <p>CNRL</p> <p>Shell</p> <p>Suncor</p> <p>PetroCanada</p> <p>Petrovera</p> <p>Devon</p>	<p>JACOS</p> <p>Deer Creek</p> <p>OPTI/Nexen</p> <p>BlackRock</p> <p>ConocoPhillips</p> <p>Husky</p> <p>Total</p>

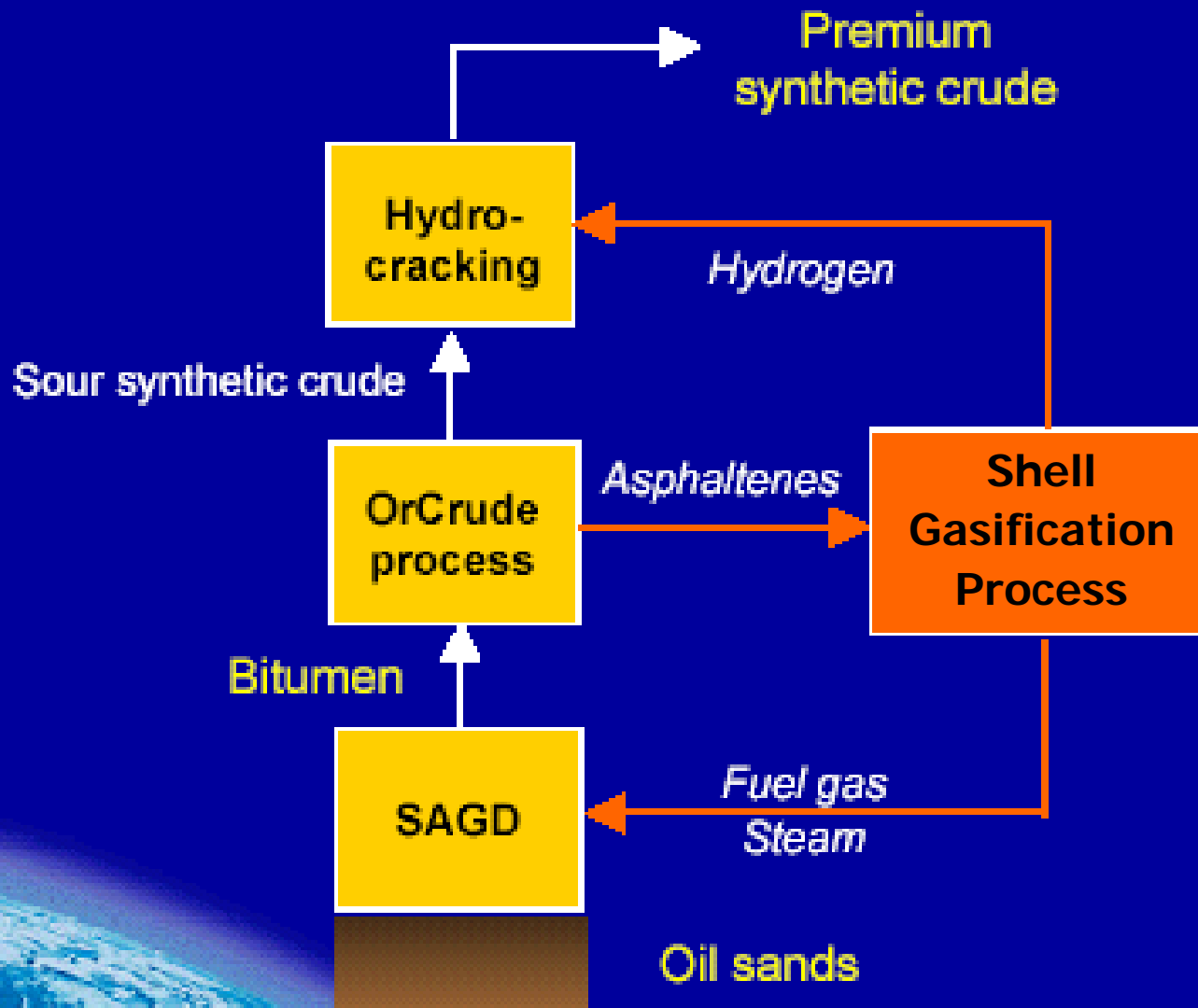
*Not an all inclusive list*

# Upgrading Technology – 1940 - Today



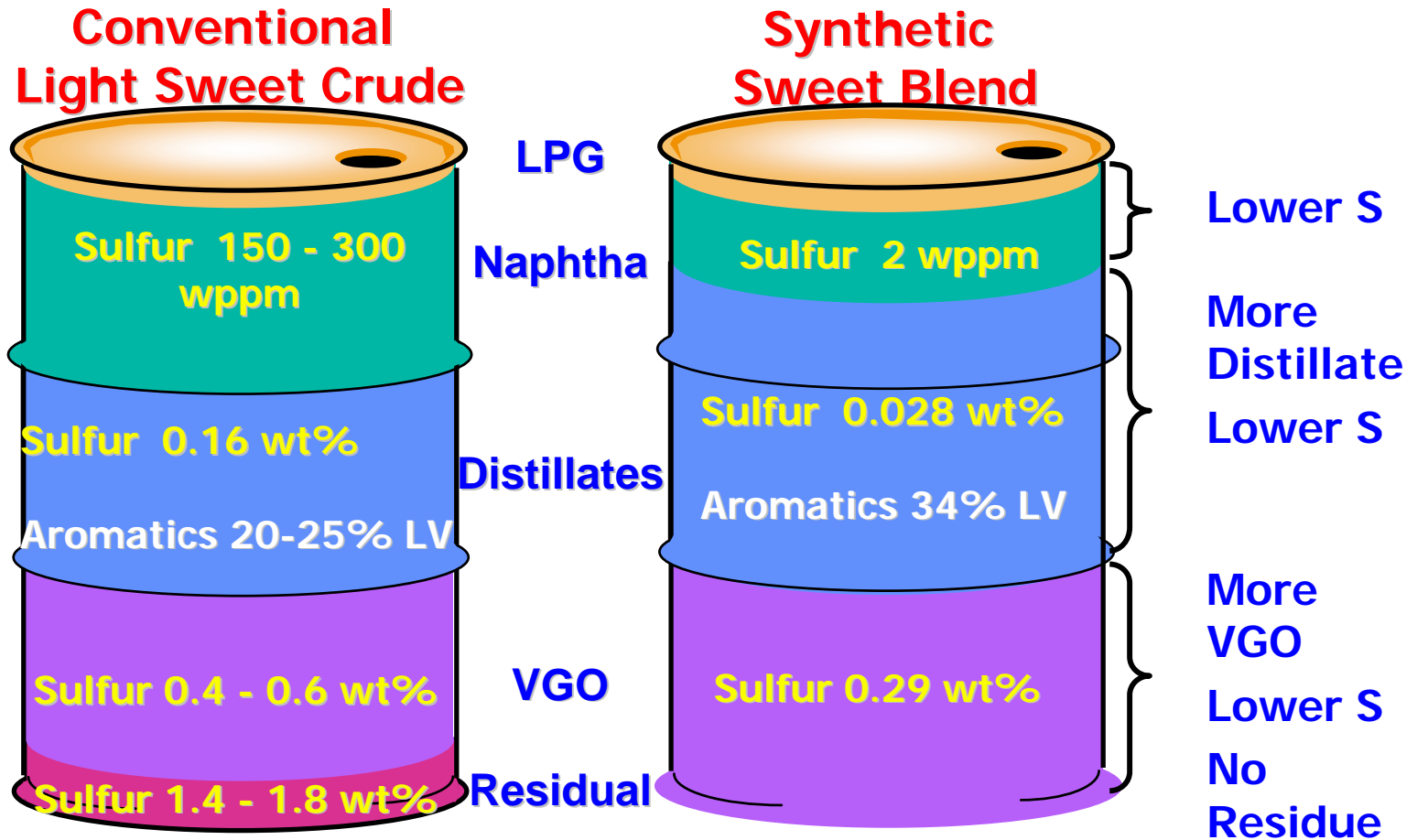
# *Integrating In-Situ Oil Sands Production and Upgrading to Reduce Cost and Increase Product Value*

## OPTI – Nexen Long Lake Project





# *Synthetic Crude Oil – desirable features*



## ***Current Production Costs***

Production Method	Crude Type	Cost per barrel (US\$, 2003)	
		Operating	Supply
Mining/Extraction	Bitumen	5 to 8	10 to 13
Cold Production	Heavy Oil	5 to 7	10 to 13
Cyclic Steam Stimulation (CSS)	Bitumen	6 to 11	10 to 15
Steam Assisted Gravity Drainage (SAGD)	Bitumen	6 to 12	9 to 14

Production Method	Crude Type	Cost per barrel (US\$, 2003)	
		Operating	Supply
Mining/Upgrading	Synthetic	10 to 14	18 to 23

***Source: National Energy Board of Canada***

# *Economic Returns – In Situ and Mining Projects*

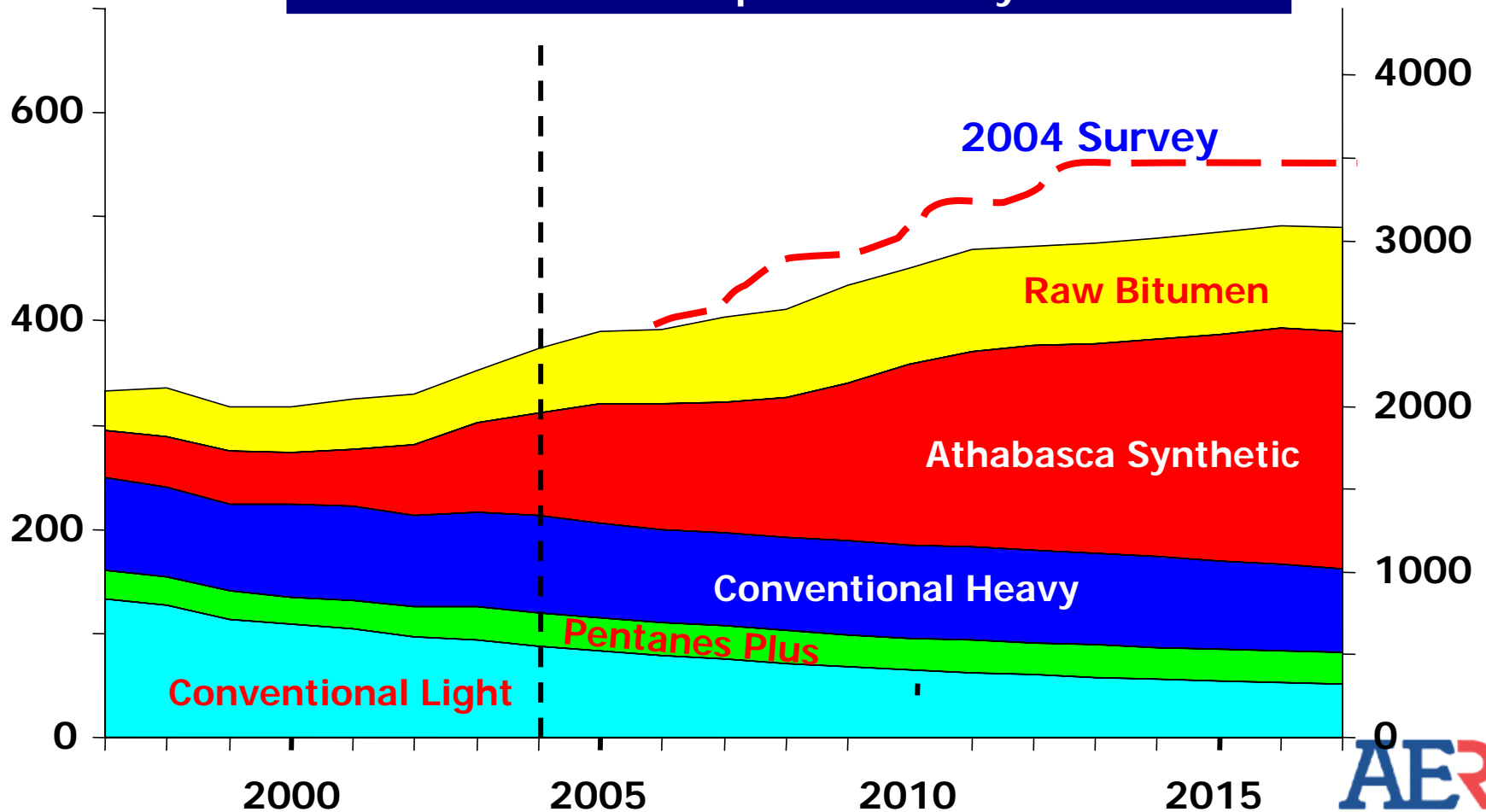


# Western Canada Sedimentary Basin Crude Oil Production Potential

- \$US20 Billion under construction or approved
- \$50 Billion additional announced
- ~ 70% of Canada's production by 2020

(000 M<sup>3</sup>/D)

(000 B/D)





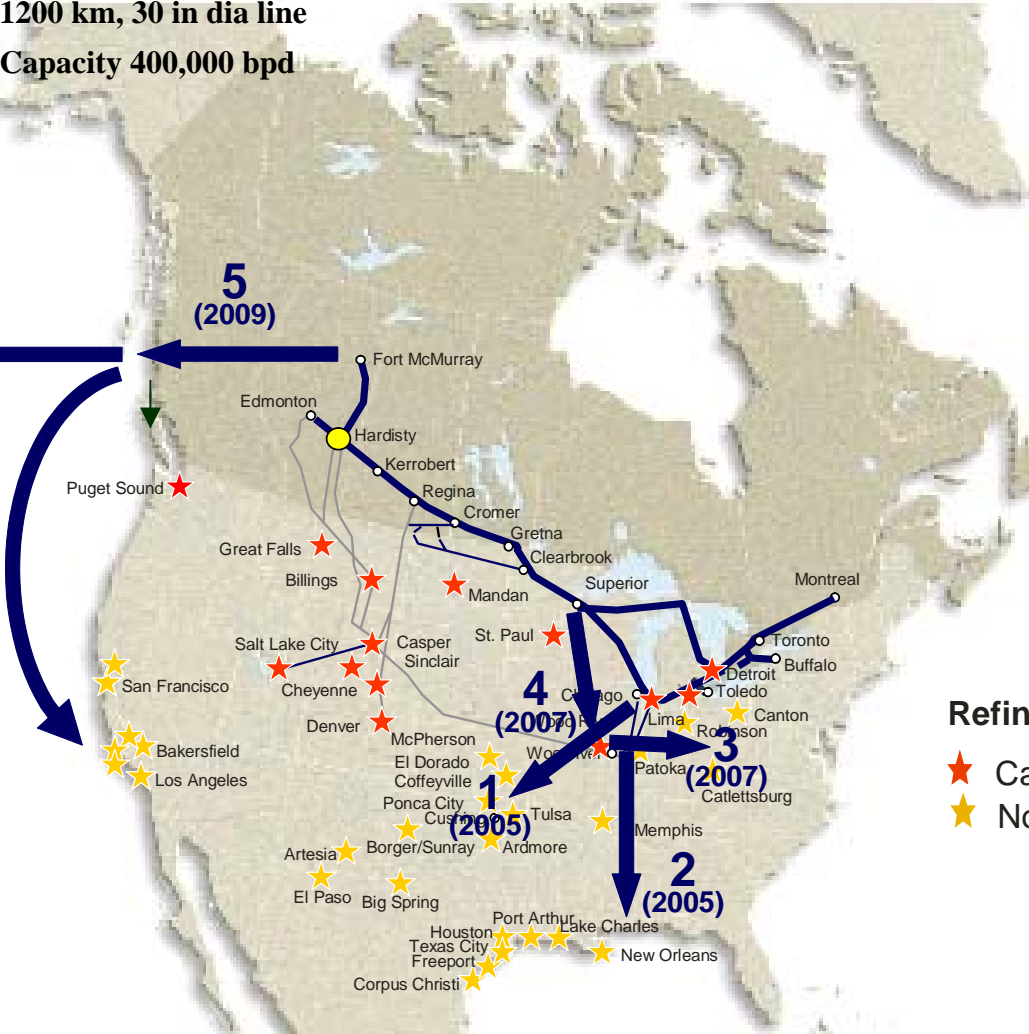
# Existing and Expanded Markets

**Gateway Project**  
 1200 km, 30 in dia line  
 Capacity 400,000 bpd

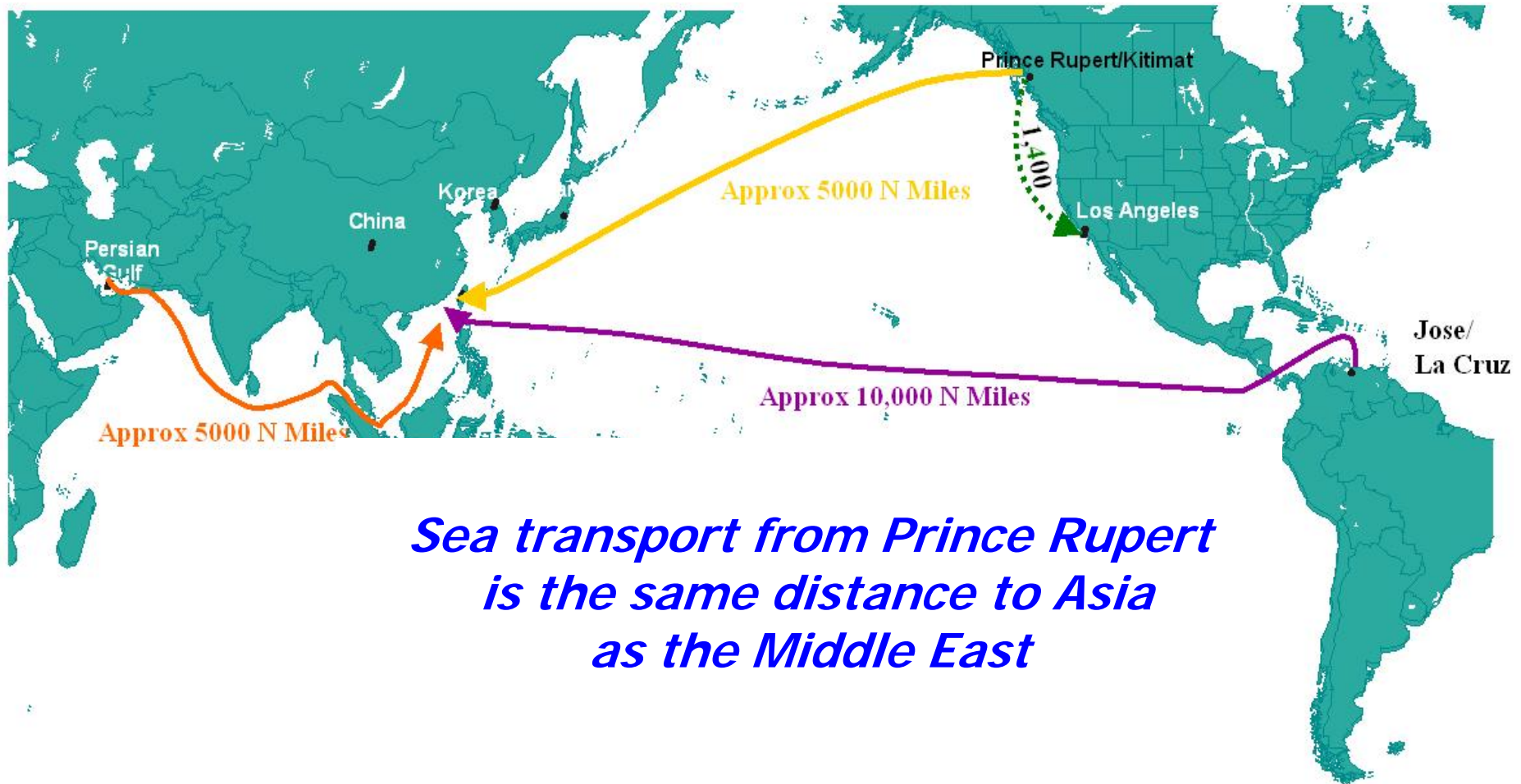
**Far East Markets**  
 5a

**1-5 are New Markets**

**California Markets**  
 5b



## *Potential Markets - US West Coast & Far East*



*Sea transport from Prince Rupert  
is the same distance to Asia  
as the Middle East*

# *Major Challenges*

## *Need for Technological Innovation*

- Natural gas substitution
  - ❑ Rising cost and future availability of natural gas
    - ❖ Steam generation
    - ❖ Hydrogen for upgrading
- Improved recovery processes
  - ❑ Significant portion of resource not currently economic
- Improved refinery conversion technologies
  - ❑ Future fuel requirements & refinery fit
- Air emissions, land access and water management
  - ❑ Land disturbance / reclamation costs
  - ❑ Manage water demands
- High GHG emissions add significant risks

# Summary

- Canadian oil sands resources are immense
- Serious challenges remain
  - ❑ technical, environmental, human resource, infrastructure, costs and required investments
- Innovation is key to “technology oil”
  - ❑ Production is expected to reach 3 MM bbls/d before 2020 (currently 1 MM bbls/d)
  - ❑ As production increases, more upgrading will be required to meet refinery specifications and increase value
  - ❑ Future co-production of clean fuels and Petrochemicals - technically and economically feasible
- Even this aggressive development can supply only some 10 - 15% of the required new global oil demand



# Summary

- “Integrated Energy Economy” is key to a secure energy future
  - ❑ Significant opportunities emerge when we consider the energy sector as an interconnected whole
- The Energy Innovation Network ([www.EnergyINet.com](http://www.EnergyINet.com)) designed to take advantage of the shift in energy systems
  - ❖ From conventional to unconventional oil & gas
  - ❖ From coal burning to advances in near-emission free clean coal technology
  - ❖ From a relatively low to significantly high mix of renewable and hydrogen energy options
  - ❖ From a focus on separate energy sources to an integrated energy system