



OIL  
EXTRACTORS  
LLC

THE DRY TAILINGS OILSANDS  
TECHNOLOGY COMPANY

## Media release

**July 2017**

### Next generation technology eliminates need for toxic tailings ponds in Alberta.

**Calgary, AB:** EPIC Oil Extractors (EPIC) is poised to revolutionize Alberta's mineable oil sands industry with a major shift away from the Clark Hot Water Extraction Process, a water-based extraction method used by the mineable oil sands sector since 1967.

EPIC, a private US-based company, has developed a solvent extraction technology that eliminates the production of toxic wet tailings and results in a reduction of GHG emissions by more than 50 per cent. The nontoxic propane-based solvent used in the EPIC process is easily recovered and recycled, and relative to other solvents, it uses the lowest temperatures and therefore less energy, ultimately producing higher-quality crude oil in a one-step process.

"We are offering something truly revolutionary in the field of mineable oil sands extraction," says Ned Diefenthal, President and CEO of EPIC Oil Extractors. "It is well known that the Clark Hot Water Extraction Process produces extremely damaging impacts on indigenous peoples and the natural environment. It is amazing that a technology developed nearly 100 years ago remains, to this day, the technology of choice for oil sands mining companies."

EPIC's breakthrough technology gives Alberta the means of addressing the policy challenge of pursuing economic development and efficiency while ensuring responsible environmental stewardship. It also offers a means of reinvigorating the bitumen mining industry, a sector controlled today by only four operators.

"Economic modeling undertaken by a leading Canadian engineering firm for EPIC Oil Extractors strongly suggests that the capital and operating costs associated with implementing the EPIC extraction process will be significantly lower than those associated with the Clark process," says Mr. Diefenthal.

EPIC's Selective Extraction Process produces a high quality "de-asphalted" crude that can be processed in conventional refineries, eliminating the high temperature upgrading needed for bitumen extracted through the Clark process.

Equally impressive, the EPIC Selective Extraction Process completely eliminates the need for the toxic tailings ponds produced by the Clark process, which currently cover more than 175 square kilometres of the Athabasca region in northeast Alberta. Without a dry tailings extraction

technology, the tailings ponds will expand exponentially as daily oil sands production from the mineable sector increases over the next 25 years and beyond.

“The tailings produced by the EPIC process are dry, benign and completely free of propane and can be returned to the mine site for immediate surface land reclamation, significantly reducing long-term harmful impacts on indigenous peoples, vegetation, and wildlife,” says Mr. Diefenthal.

EPIC Oil Extractors is engaged in discussions with government officials, industry, and investors to advance the technology to the next stage of development and testing, including a field pilot project.

“The EPIC Selective Extraction Process represents a true next-generation extraction process that could allow Alberta to re-imagine the mineable oil sands sector in a way that is cost efficient and can immediately address the current impacts on indigenous peoples and the environmental degradation that continues to worsen with each passing year,” says Mr. Diefenthal.

### About EPIC Oil Extractors

EPIC Oil Extractors LLC, headquartered in New Orleans, Louisiana, has for the past 10 years focused its research and development efforts on a propane-based solvent extraction process for mineable oil sands. The company designed and maintains a state-of-the-art proof-of-concept demonstration plant in Ponchatoula, 45 minutes northwest of New Orleans. EPIC’s technology is protected by a large portfolio of issued and pending patents in Canada and the United States.

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