

Groups file lawsuit to halt tar sands oil project in Utah

Jan. 19 -- Environmental groups are suing to stop a tar sands oil project in eastern Utah.

The Sierra Club and the Indigenous Environmental Network filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah, Jan. 15. They charge the proposed Antelope Creek tar sands oil project will release hazardous pollutants, greenhouse gases, threaten wildlife and poison and dry up rivers. The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, which manages the land slated for the proposal, has approved the project. The lawsuit challenges that approval.

Petroglyph Gas Partners LP plans to drill 300 wells within 720 acres of land. Greenhouse gas emissions from tar sands development are three times higher than conventional oil and gas production, according to the groups.

"Tar sands oil is one of the world's dirtiest forms of energy," said Wayne Hoskisson, a representative of the Utah Sierra Club.

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