

Greenpeace informs Statoil employees about dirty tar sands

Oslo 27.4.2009: Greenpeace-activists with a 40-foot information- container and information leaflets about Statoil's controversial tar sands project in Canada was the first that met Statoil employees at the groups Oslo headquarter today.

The Greenpeace information campaign is set to continue up to Statoil's Annual General Meeting on May 19th, where the tar sands involvement will be up for a vote.

- As long as Statoil is not providing full information about the environmental problems related to tar sands extraction to neither owners, employees nor the Norwegian people, we will have to do it, says Martin Norman in Greenpeace.

Statoil's purchase of tar sands rights in Canada in 2007 created critical headlines in Norway and internal unrest in the company. Statoil has lately created an impression that the company has chosen a new and particularly environmentally friendly way of extraction, and that carbon capture and storage CO₂ will solve the emission problems related to tar sands.

This is unfortunately not true. Statoil's plans for tar sands extraction differs little from other companies plans for similar deep deposit tar sands resources, and will lead to very large carbon emissions. The tar sands development is also undermining the Canadian position in the global climate negotiations.

- When Statoil spends this amount of time and money to learn something new, they should use their innovation power in better areas than spending valuable natural gas to boil out dirty Canadian tar sands, said Martin Norman in Greenpeace.

The Norwegian State controls 67 percent of Statoil's shares, but has so far not banned the tar sands project. At the forthcoming Statoil AGM May 19th will all shareholders, including the Norwegian State be able to cast their votes regarding the future of Statoil's tar sands involvement, according to agenda item 12 in the program:

<http://www.statoilhydro.com/en/AboutStatoilHydro/CorporateGovernance/GoverningBodies/AnnualGeneralMeeting/AGM2009/Downloads/notice%20of%20general%20meeting.pdf>

Stills and video from tar sands operations (*note: Statoil does not currently have access to open pit mines, but plans to use the more energy requiring SAGD-method for deeper deposits*):

http://info.greenpeace.se/album/GPN_Media_Release/ (folder Tar Sands Alberta)

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