

Earth Energy Resources are planning to use a suite of chemicals that should give Grand and Uintah Counties pause for analysis. D-Limonene, one of the major components of EER's solvents, has not been evaluated for genotoxicity, carcinogenicity, potential for endocrine disruption, or reproductive and developmental toxicity by any major health organization, including EPA, WHO, or the National Toxicology Program.

Another component, alkylbenzene sulfonate, has been proven toxic to aquatic fauna at the parts-per-million level. This is equal to 1/10 of a percent, or roughly equal to 4 drops of a pollutant in a 55-gallon drum of water. This level of pollution is nearly impossible to avoid during tar sands extraction and processing, as the Canadian province Alberta is discovering.

The recent reporting of mutated fish (<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/north/story/2008/08/18/chip-fish.html>) in Athabasca Lake, downstream from Alberta's tar sands operations and no other industry, raises more questions. There is no man-made technology that can guarantee zero leakage of contamination into our natural waters. Survival in the high desert depends absolutely on our natural waters. Once our waterways are polluted, it is extremely difficult, at best, to remediate them. Any potential benefits to the proposed tar sands operations are vastly outweighed by the risks.