

# Inside the Pipeline Crude Oil Facts

Energy East would move many types of crude oil as determined and ordered by refineries and all according to regulated tariff specifications.

Raw bitumen will not be transported by the Energy East Pipeline.

Bitumen is a raw material that must be either refined to a synthetic specification, which is similar to West Texas Light to become a synthetic crude oil, or blended with other types of crude to become diluted bitumen. Bitumen is simply a thick, heavy oil that is extracted from deposits in the oil sands region of Northern Alberta.

Moving bitumen by pipeline is difficult because of its inability to flow freely. To overcome this, producers reduce the density and viscosity of the bitumen, generally by diluting it with light, low-viscosity diluents. Bitumen might require as much as 40 per cent dilution for pipeline transport. The resulting diluted bitumen is a blended crude oil that is comparable to other types of heavy crude oils, both in its composition and physical characteristics.

Energy East will transport diluted bitumen, synthetic crudes and light crude oils from Alberta and Saskatchewan. None of these crude types create a risk to the pipeline from within. As well, the physical and chemical properties of the crude oils to be transported by Energy East Pipeline are not unique and are similar to those already being transported and processed by other pipelines and refineries across North America.

Several independent studies have shown that there is no difference in safety or risk for pipelines carrying diluted bitumen.

Regardless of the specific crude oil, the crude oil itself must meet multiple tariff specifications, including sediment and water content (not to exceed one-half of one per cent), temperature and the fact that the “petroleum cannot contain sand, dust, dirt, impurities or other objectionable substances”.

## Energy East Pipeline



## Contact us

We encourage your input and invite interested stakeholders to contact us.

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