

LEAVE IT IN THE GROUND

Beware Lignite!

Solid Energy's Plans for Massive Coal Mining in Southland

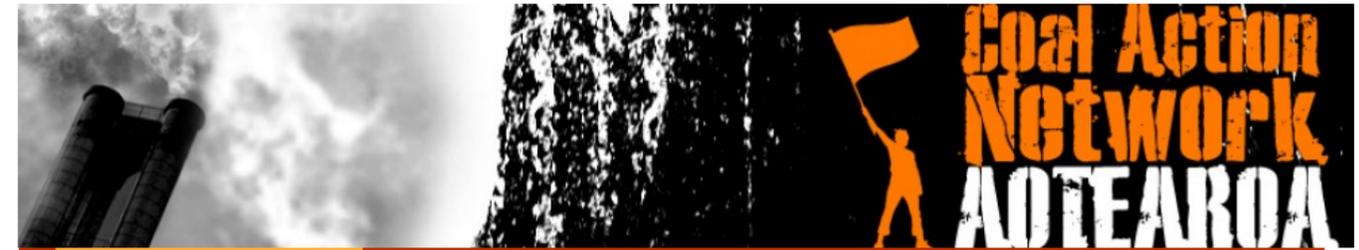
- o Carbon dioxide (CO₂) represents the major portion of climate-changing greenhouse gases.
- o Coal emits 29% more CO₂ per unit of energy than oil and 80% more than natural gas.
- o According to the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences, New Zealand is already mining more coal than ever before and the state continues making plans to dig up even more.

Solid Energy

- o Solid Energy has secured access to 1.35 billion tonnes of lignite in Eastern Southland through purchasing large areas of farmland.
- o They are currently undergoing feasibility studies into the conversion of Southland lignite into products such as a diesel fuel and urea fertiliser.
- o Lignite, often referred to as brown coal, is a soft brown fuel with characteristics that put it somewhere between coal and peat. It is considered the lowest rank of coal.
- o The company plans to trial new technology which will remove the high water content, eventually converting the lignite into a syn-crude which can be used to make other products.
- o They have been working alongside Christchurch-based company Ravensdown in investigating the potential for urea fertiliser production, to supply New Zealand agriculture.

KEY POINTS:

- 6 billion tonnes of economically recoverable lignite in Southland
- Solid Energy own land over 1.5 billion tonnes
- New Zealand coal production in 2009 was 4.5 million tonnes
- In November 2010, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment said any use of lignite would be a bad choice for New Zealand



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Coal mining impacts

Coal mining has serious health implications for workers and locals, including respiratory illness from coal dust.

Environmental impacts include waterway contamination by toxic levels of heavy minerals such as mercury, aluminium, manganese and zinc, as well as propagation of sulphuric acid called Acid Mine Drainage.

Coal mining cannot be seriously considered if New Zealand is to maintain its reputation as 'clean and

green.'

It is estimated that [global] potential coal resources are sufficient to enable us not just to double the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, but to quadruple or nearly octuple the pre-industrial value.' - R.T. Pierrehumbert in Climate Change: A Catastrophe in Slow Motion

Extracting massive quantities of Southland lignite is exactly what companies and the NZ Government should not be doing.

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Coal Action Network Aotearoa

The Coal Action Network (CAN) is a network of climate justice campaigners committed to fighting the continuation of coal mining in Aotearoa New Zealand.

CAN's objectives are to:

1. Phase out coal mining and coal usage within 20 years, initially by opposing new and expanded coal mines.
2. Promote a cultural change so that mining and using coal are unacceptable.
3. Work towards a society where people and the environment are not exploited for profit.
4. Be part of a just transition to a coal-free Aotearoa New Zealand.

To get involved, please email coalactionnetwork@gmail.com and ask to be put on our mailing list.

coalactionnetworkaotearoa.wordpress.com



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