



## Injunction application filed in court against Baytex Energy

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It won't get them home in time for Christmas, but Keith Wilson, a lawyer representing five families forced from their rural homes by bitumen processing emissions, just south of Peace River, says they're heading to court.

"We filed an application on Friday to the Court of Queen's Bench in Peace River," explained Wilson. "The application will be heard in early to mid January, and in that application we're seeking an injunction from the court against Baytex Energy — requesting that they stop emissions from 86 heated bitumen processing tanks that surround these families' homes."

Wilson says the families want the Calgary based company to install a fully closed system on their super-heated bitumen tanks, instead of openly venting the emissions.

"This is the second Christmas that these people have not been able to be on the land, and these are all descendants of homesteading families. They're all related from extended families — they're not against the oil industry — they've been good Alberta citizens in the sense that they've supported Baytex putting these tanks on their land. They had no problem with the previous company that was operating them and then Baytex comes along, changes the processing technique, increases the temperature, increases the pressure on the tanks, open vents them — they have all these emission problems, start getting sick, they have to leave the land and Baytex carries on."

But in a letter of response, Baytex says its operations comply with current Alberta regulations.

Wilson, however, says the Alberta Energy Regulator is now conducting an inquiry into the environmental standards for the method of oilsands production being used by Baytex.

“Baytex, on their own website, boasts about getting over a 200 percent rate of return of investment on this particular field, when all the other oil companies are getting 100 percent, or less than 100 percent rate of return. Those are still pretty good rates of return and my clients have no problem with Baytex making profits, none what so ever. But clearly it’s a red flag when Baytex is making so much more money than anyone else, even according to Baytex. My clients are saying, and I think they’re being reasonable, come on Baytex — close these tanks up, put in proper pollution control techniques, just like we do in Fort McMurray and other parts of the province, and stop gassing us out of our homes...is what they’re saying.”

Wilson says new dramatic infrared camera video showing the tank top emissions has just been released by Alberta Energy Regulator and can be viewed here: <http://www.aer.ca/applications-and-notices/hearings/proceeding-1769924> — click on right panel called “Volume III – Addendum FLIR Videos Facilities” then click on Baytex. *(td)*

Quick link to video: <http://www.stopbaytex.ca/video-of-baytex-energy-emissions/>