

Excerpt from Edmonton Journal, February 16, 2012

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/business/Harsh+reality+green+energy+doesn+match+spin/6161017/story.html>

Lamphier: Harsh reality of green energy doesn't yet match its spin

EDMONTON - A few weeks ago, after I wrote a column on TransCanada's proposed Keystone XL pipeline, a West Coast environmental activist challenged my numbers.

TransCanada's claim that the project would create 20,000 jobs was vastly overblown, he argued, noting that U.S. studies, including one by the State Department, showed the real figure was far lower.

I wasn't surprised. I get dozens of similar calls or emails every week from activists who are keen to spin me one way or another. It's all part of the ideological war over the future of the oilsands.

Clearly, TransCanada does have an incentive to pump up its job numbers. I get it. I wasn't born yesterday.

But then, the greenies - and the Obama government - also have a vested interest in downplaying the benefits of the project, which they're only too happy to do. You can decide for yourself whose numbers to believe.

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It ain't a pretty picture, and it's one the enviro activists would rather sweep under a rug, safely out of public view. After all, the gritty truth undercuts their utopian dream of a clean, green energy future, one without fossil fuels.

Consider. Last year, the Wilderhill New Energy Index - a global index of nearly 100 green energy companies - plunged by 40 per cent. And that was no blip. Since the index was formed in January 2006, it has lost a third of its value.

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