Infographic: How Tar Sands Oil Is Produced

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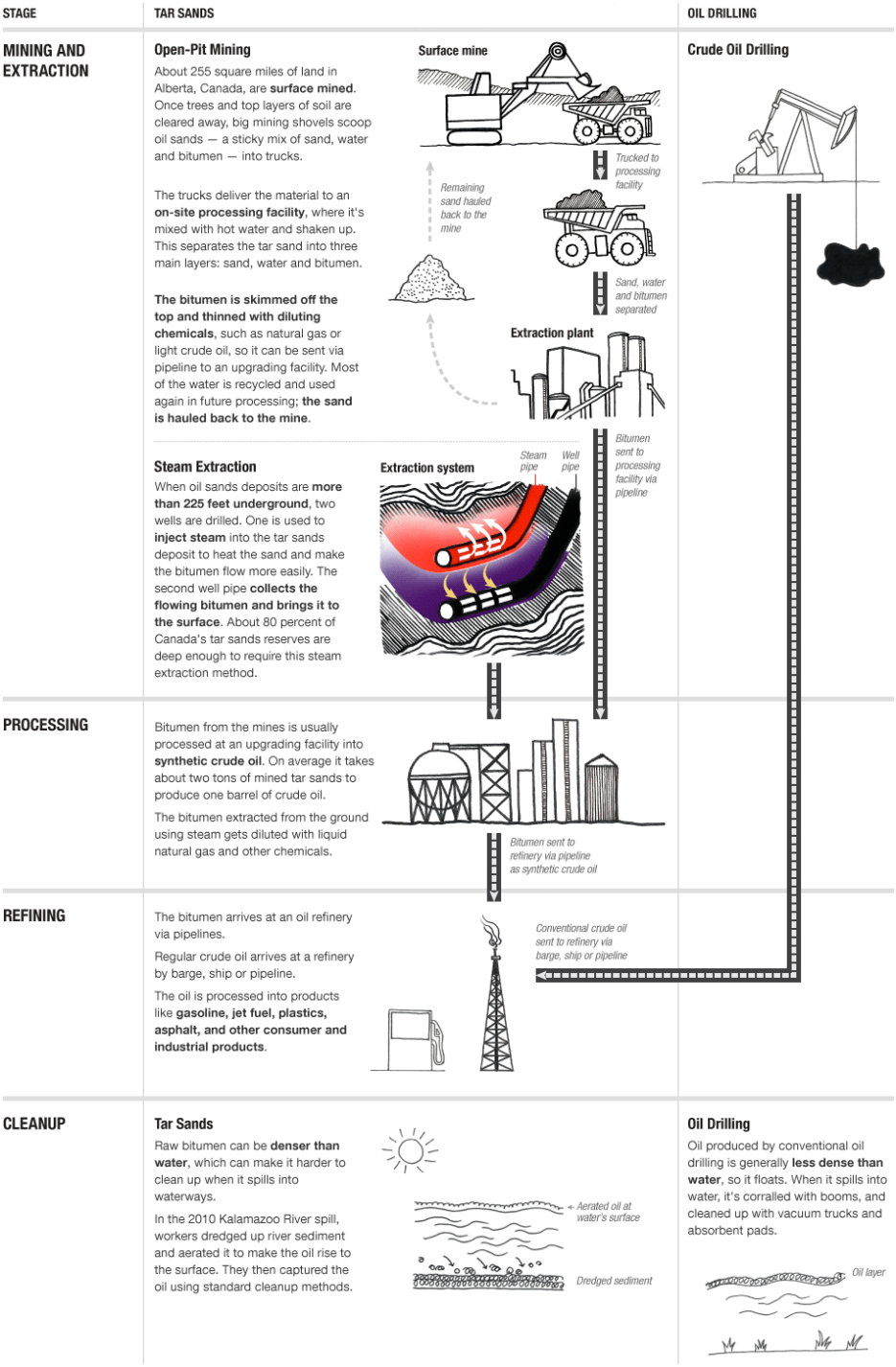
The oil product extracted from Canada's tar sands isn't like conventional crude. Known as bitumen, it's sticky and so thick, it can't flow down a pipeline without extensive processing. There are two methods for getting bitumen out of the ground and turning it into usable products. Both are complex, energy-intensive and expensive processes – but high oil prices are finally making tar sands profitable.



Source: Energy Information Administration, Government of Alberta/Alberta Energy
Credit: Alyson Hurt, Ayodha Ouditt and Andrew Prince / NPR

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