Liquid Hydrocarbons

(Conventional) crude oil: a mixture mainly of pentanes and heavier hydrocarbons that is recoverable at a well from an underground reservoir, and which is liquid at atmospheric pressure and temperature.

Synthetic crude oil (syncrude): as commonly understood in Canada, a mixture mainly of pentanes and heavier hydrocarbons that is derived from crude bitumen through the addition of hydrogen or the deletion of carbon, and which is liquid at atmospheric pressure and temperature. Syncrude also includes oil obtained from oil shale or coal.

Condensate: a mixture mainly of pentanes and heavier hydrocarbons that is recoverable at a well from an underground reservoir, and which is gaseous in its reservoir state but which condenses to a liquid at atmospheric pressure and temperature. Condensate is often included with "crude oil", a practice followed in this report.

Pentanes plus: a mixture mainly of pentanes and heavier hydrocarbons that is obtained from the processing of raw gas, condensate or crude oil.

Crude bitumen: a naturally occurring viscous mixture, mainly of hydrocarbons much heavier than pentane, that in its natural state will not flow to a well. Bitumen, once produced, may be diluted with pentanes plus so that it can be transported by pipeline without the need for prior upgrading.

Shale oil: oil obtained from the treatment of kerogen contained in oil shale. No shale oil is produced in Canada at the present time, although oil shales are found in various regions of the country.

In this report, the term **oil** includes conventional and synthetic crude, condensate, pentanes plus and bitumen. This grouping is sometimes also referred to as **crude oil and equivalent**. If we wish to exclude synthetic crude oil and bitumen from this group, we denote the remaining three components as **conventional oil**.

Oil sands: sand and other rock materials containing crude bitumen, or the crude bitumen contained within those sands or other rock materials.

Tar sands: sands impregnated with a heavy crude oil, tar-like in consistency, that is too viscous to permit recovery by natural flowage into wells. This term used to be applied to the bitumen deposits of Alberta but has largely been supplanted by "oil sands" in Canadian usage. In the United States and elsewhere, the term "tar sands" is still in common use.

Oil shale: a kerogen-bearing, brown or black shale that will yield gaseous or liquid hydrocarbons on distillation.