



## 2 Smart Ways to Play Oil Volatility Right Now

### Description

What's the difference between Saudi oil and Canadian oil? In a word: *security*. With oil prices shooting way up at the start of the week after drone attacks took out a staggering 5% of the world's oil supply, Albertan oil might start looking attractive to business investors across the border as a lower-risk alternative to supplies from areas at risk of escalating geopolitical tension.

Today, we'll take a look at one of the best oil stocks trading on the TSX for dividend investors with broad financial horizons as well as a clean energy alternative to ride the increasing momentum behind renewables.

### A strong play for lower-risk Canadian oil

**Suncor** ([TSX:SU](#))([NYSE:SU](#)) was up almost 6% this week, buoyed by investors seeking a quick play on higher oil. Paying a dividend yield just shy of 4%, Suncor is better than a get-rich-quick momentum play and can reward long-term income investors seeking a defensive distribution. Suncor has an excellent track record of payments and is [one of the sturdiest stocks on the TSX](#).

Though most of the gains of Monday were gone by Tuesday, oil bottlenecks can add rapid upside to energy stocks heavily weighted by the black gold. Despite roughly 25% of Saudi oil production still affected by the drone attack on production sites last Saturday, oil prices have settled down somewhat, though the situation could escalate in the short-term and drive prices higher again.

However, given the potential for further — and even more disruptive — localized bottlenecks, snapping up shares in Suncor may be a canny move. Over the longer term, businesses, especially American ones, may come to prefer the relatively lower-risk oil from Western Canada over supplies from further afield that carry a risk premium. If this plays out, stocks like Suncor could become even more popular.

### One of the top clean-energy stocks on the TSX

Investors seeking to leave the oil patch behind altogether have a clear buy signal today in **Algonquin Power & Utilities**

([TSX:AQN](#))([NYSE:AQN](#)). Here is a succulent dividend payer (currently yielding a tasty 4.19%) totally not reliant on crude oil reserves and safe from localized instability. Covering wind, thermal, solar, and hydroelectric assets, it's also a great play for "green" investors seeking a [low-impact play for energy momentum](#).

With big tech business now moving very publicly towards investment in renewables, there will be increasing momentum in the sector, leading to capital gains opportunities, richer yields, and better-covered distribution. Producers like Algonquin could very well benefit, for instance, from news such as this week's announcement by Google that it will buy a 1.6 gigawatt basket of renewable power agreements in Europe and the Americas.

## The bottom line

While volatility has long been a facet of oil investing, some of that risk can be reduced when businesses access markets with lower geopolitical risk. The attack last Saturday that took out 50% of the Saudi oil supplies served as a reminder that the world is still reliant on easily disrupted resources. Suncor represents a strong play on Canadian oil, while betting on Algonquin could pay off if the market swings increasingly towards renewables.

### CATEGORY

1. Dividend Stocks
2. Energy Stocks
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4. Stocks for Beginners

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1. NYSE:AQN (Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp.)
2. NYSE:SU (Suncor Energy Inc.)
3. TSX:AQN (Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp.)
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