

ENBRIDGE PIPELINE OIL SPILL: LARGEST IN MIDWEST HISTORY

» **MONDAY JULY 26, 2010:** The Enbridge Lakehead pipeline carrying crude oil from Indiana to Ontario suffered an underground break in Michigan. At least 4 million litres of crude oil flowed into the Kalamazoo River. It is the largest environmental disaster in Midwest U.S. history.



ABOVE: Cleanup workers deploy equipment on the Kalamazoo River (Detroit News)

ENBRIDGE SPILL FACTS

- Estimated amount of oil spilled: 4,000,000 litres (EPA)
- Approximate number of kilometres of Kalamazoo River polluted after 5 days: 56 (CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR)
- Number of hours between the smell of oil being reported to authorities and Enbridge reporting the spill: 16 (DETROIT FREE PRESS)
- Hours between Enbridge discovering leak and calling National Response Centre: 3 hours, 48 minutes (DETROIT FREE PRESS)

ENBRIDGE NEGLIGENT IN MAINTAINING PIPE?

“This company was negligent in maintaining their pipeline.” (Congressman Mark Schauer)

“Federal regulators say corrosion tests done as recently as last year found “metal loss anomalies” along the pipeline.” (Detroit Free Press)

“Enbridge was notified twice this year of potential problems involving old pipe prone to rupturing and an inadequate system for monitoring internal corrosion -- one of a pipeline’s biggest threats.” (Detroit Free Press)

“Enbridge has a history of problems with the pipeline and has been cited ...for numerous compliance and safety violations in the past eight years.” (Detroit News)

WAS ENBRIDGE’S RESPONSE ADEQUATE?

Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm:

“...wholly inadequate.”

“...the response has been anemic”

“There needs to be a lot more done. There are not enough resources...”

Congressman Mark Schauer:

“...my conclusion in my assessment is that the company was initially slow to respond...”

“I want to find out how the hell did this happen. I’m especially concerned about the response of (Enbridge) and whether their estimates are accurate...”



ABOVE: Crude oil from Enbridge’s Michigan spill resulted in a significant fish kill in the Kalamazoo River and coated birds, turtles, muskrats and other animals with oil (photo courtesy Detroit News).

NO EXCUSE

“We have an estimated one million gallons of oil on the ground, and the people of Michigan want answers. There is no excuse for the amount of time that lapsed between when Enbridge discovered the leak and when they reported it.”

-Congressman Mark Schauer



Broken Safety Record

“This is a company whose safety record is very definitely suspect and cause for concern”

-Andy Buchsbaum, National Wildlife Federation

Hundreds of spills

Between 1999 and 2008, Enbridge's operations experienced 610 spills.

Numerous, widespread violations

In 2009, Enbridge paid \$1.1 for 545 environmental violations in Wisconsin. Department of Justice Attorney General said, "...incidents of violation were numerous and widespread, and resulted in impacts to the streams and wetlands throughout the various watersheds."

Minnesota Explosion

In 2007, an explosion on an Enbridge pipeline near Clearbrook, Minnesota, caused two deaths and \$2 million in damage. PHMSA said the company exceeded maximum pressure and fined Enbridge \$2.4 million and ordered it to make several procedural changes.

Failure to inspect equipment

Enbridge has been cited for failing to properly inspect equipment, document inspections, properly train employees and perform adequate repairs.

Enbridge was cited by PHMSA 31 times since 2002. That includes two "corrective action orders," the most serious of the regulator's citations. (Battle Creek Enquirer)

What is Northern Gateway?

Enbridge's proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline would carry crude oil from the Alberta tar sands to a tanker port at Kitimat. It would cross over 1,000 streams and rivers and bring bulk crude oil tankers to B.C.'s north coast for the first time.

MICHIGAN: WHEN DID ENBRIDGE LAST TEST PIPE SECTION?

"Since 2002 the agency [U.S. Dept. of Transportation] has required pipeline operators to conduct "Integrity Management" operations to "identify, prioritize, assess, evaluate, repair and validate" the integrity of their pipelines. This rule, however, only applies to sections of pipeline that run through designated "High Consequence Areas."

According to PHMSA High Consequence Areas are those that involve population areas, drinking water and ecological resources that are unusually sensitive to environmental damage and commercially navigable waterways.

Both Enbridge and PHMSA have declined to say whether the section of pipeline that ruptured this week was subject to regulation as a High Consequence Area. If this section is not designated as a HCA then **the company may not have been required to test its integrity since it was installed in 1969.**" (from the Michigan Messenger)



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"More than a year ago an assessment of Enbridge's 6B Michigan pipeline revealed corrosion on the line but as recently as this month the company was still negotiating with regulators for more time to fix the problem." (Michigan Messenger)

WHAT DOES ENBRIDGE'S SPILL MEAN FOR NORTHERN B.C.?

NORTHERN GATEWAY WOULD CROSS FIVE WILD SALMON RIVERS

Salmon advocates say a similar spill in B.C. would seriously harm salmon.

"Given our salmon resources in northwest B.C., we simply can't risk seeing a major oil pipeline spill here," said Friends of Wild Salmon's Jenn Rice. "There are complicating factors that would make an oil cleanup in our northern rivers more difficult than what Michigan is facing."

Morice River fishing guide Tony Harris says log jams and side channels are unique rearing areas and would collect oil as it drifted downstream. The Morice River contributes up to 30 percent of the Skeena's total chinook and steelhead.

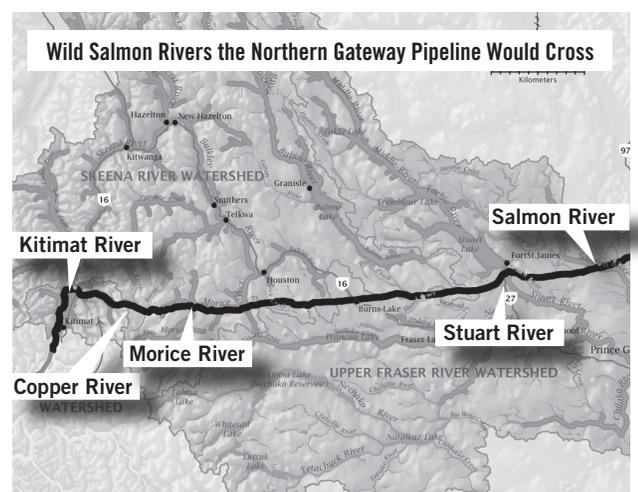
In the Fraser, salmon are already in dire trouble. Last year, only 13 percent of expected sockeye returned, triggering an ongoing judicial inquiry. An oil spill in the Fraser would worsen the situation.

In 2000, a pipeline spilled one million litres of oil into the Pine River near Chetwynd, B.C., causing a 21 km oil slick downstream. After a \$30 million clean-up, the river still isn't oil-free.

"Can we promise there will never be an accident? No. Nobody can."
-Enbridge CEO Pat Daniel.

"There is no way to clean up an oil spill on the Morice. All the log jams would have to be removed and the gravel would need to be excavated, losing important habitat. It's a no-win situation," he said.

"Each time Enbridge spills oil, they say they've learned from their mistakes. We won't allow our salmon rivers to become the next lesson in Enbridge's trial and error process," said Rice.



Yes, I want to help Friends of Wild Salmon protect our rivers from oil spills

Complete the form below and mail it us. We will send you periodic information about our activities and upcoming events.

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