North American Pipelines - Advantages, Disadvantages, Risk Reduction

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Workshop on the Prevention of Water Pollution due to Pipeline Accidents

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Introduction

- Overview of North American pipeline infrastructure
- National Energy Board (context)
- Benefits & disadvantages of pipelines
- > Reducing the risk of pipeline accidents



Major North American Oil Pipelines

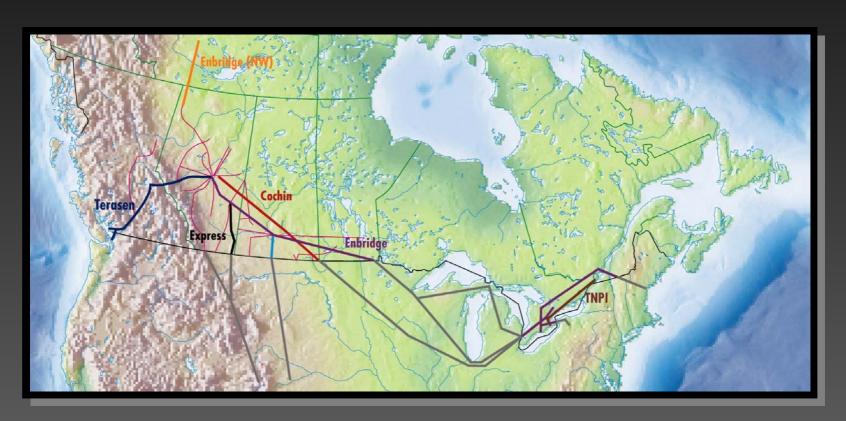


National Energy Board of Canada

- Regulates about 45 000 km of transmission pipelines that cross inter-provincial or international borders (between Canada and U.S.A)
- 40% of these lines carry crude oil or refined products (gasoline, aviation fuel)
- National Energy Board's role is to promote safety, environmental protection and economic efficiency in the regulation of pipelines, energy development and trade



Major Oil Pipelines in Canada





Oil Pipelines Crossing International Waterbodies





Benefits and Disadvantages of Pipelines

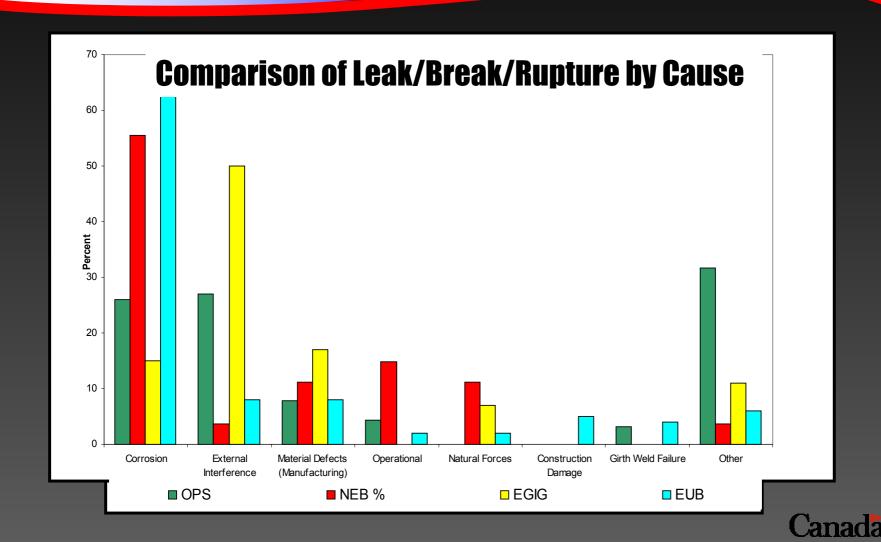
- **Benefits**
 - **Economic**
 - > 8.0 €/m³ toll from Edmonton to Chicago
 - Safety
 - >87 times fewer deaths than truck transport
 - ➤ 35 times fewer fires/explosions than truck transport
 - Security
 - > Largely invisible to the general public
 - Environment



Benefits and Disadvantages of Pipelines

- Disadvantages
 - Capital cost
 - >~500,000 €/km or 650 800 €/km•mm diameter
 - Environmental impacts of construction
 - > Topsoil stripping
 - Deforestation (right of way clearing)
 - Environmental impacts of operation
 - > Effects of pipeline releases
 - Infringement on land rights (expropriation)





Risk = Probability x Consequences

- Canadian regulatory approach:
 - > Reduce probability
 - Integrity Management Programs
 - Damage Prevention Programs
 - Mitigate consequences
 - Emergency Planning and Response Programs
 - Verify compliance
 - ➤ Management System Audits



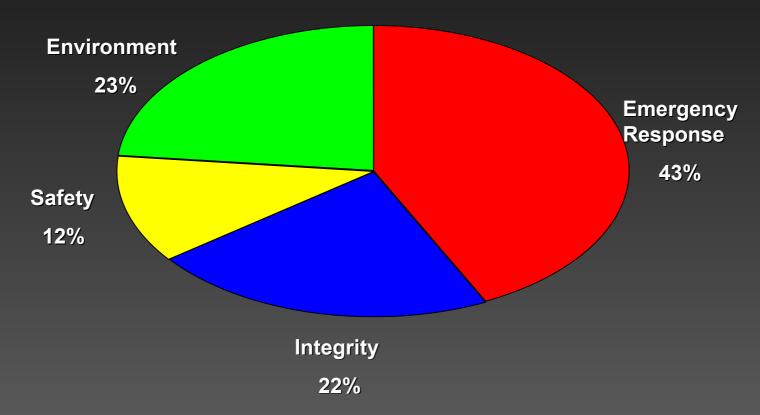
- Integrity Management Program
 - > Reduce the probability of corrosion-related releases
 - > Includes:
 - Management System
 - ➤ Working Records System
 - **➤ Condition Monitoring Program**
 - ➤ Mitigation Program
- Damage Prevention Program
 - Reduce the probability of third-party damage
 - Permission to excavate on RoW; notify within 30 metres
 - Awareness obligations



- Emergency Planning & Response Program
 - Mitigate consequences of an uncontrolled release to land or water
 - Management system approach
 - Liaison program for first responders
 - Continuing education program for public
- Compliance verification
 - > NEB management system audits



Audit Findings

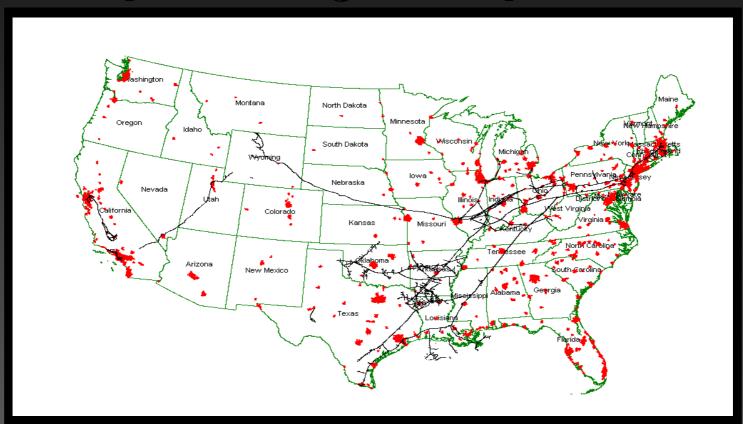




- > U.S.A. regulatory approach
 - > Hazardous Liquids Rule (2002)
 - **▶** Identification of High Consequence Areas
 - > Baseline assessments
 - Continuous evaluation and assessment
 - Risk assessment
 - > Repair criteria
 - Program effectiveness measures
 - Emergency response



USA Pipelines & High Consequence Areas



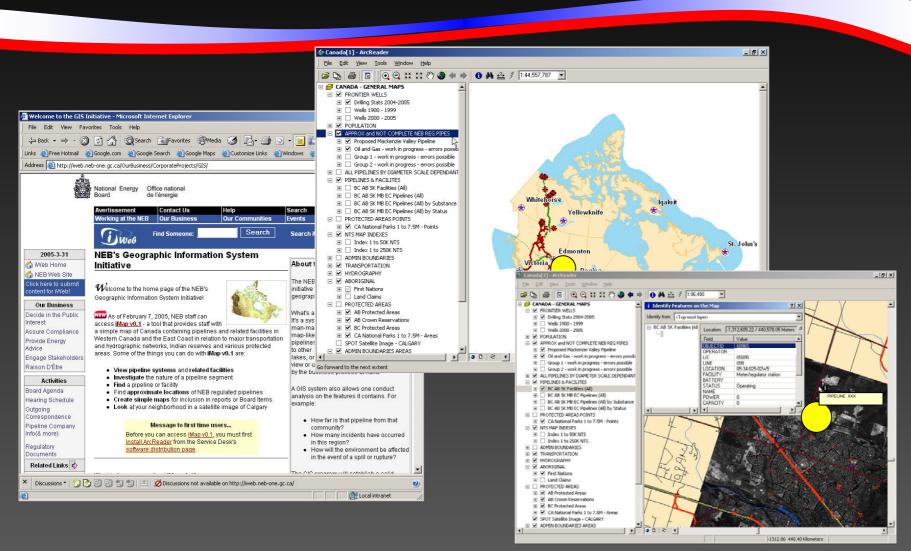


Working with Other Regulators

- Pipeline Technical Regulatory Authorities Committee of Canada (PTRACC)
- Memorandum of Understanding with U.S. Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Association
- Development of joint GIS-based pipeline mapping system



NEB Pipeline Mapping System





Summary

- What have we learned?
 - Regulatory intervention can positively influence safety and environmental protection
 - Understanding release causes is a critical first step in developing a program to reduce the risk
- Future regulatory directions
 - Increased movement toward goal-oriented regulation
 - Introduction of Health, Safety and Environment Case

