

New Jersey Highlands Council **Letter 32**

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Web Response

My family and neighbors are very concerned about the proposed route for the Pilgrim Crude Oil Pipeline -- through many miles of Highlands down Route 287. My biggest concerns are that (1) undetected (and detected) leaks will seriously undermine water quality throughout the Highlands and impact water users inside and outside the Highlands, (2) the construction, existence and maintenance of a crude oil pipeline will further undermine home values and economic development prospects in the Highlands, and (3) There is ZERO benefit of this proposal to the Highlands region, homeowners or businesses. Therefore, THE PROPOSED CRUDE OIL PIPELINE IS ANTITHETICAL TO BOTH FOUNDING PRINCIPLES OF THE HIGHLANDS: RESOURCE PRESERVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE HIGHLANDS REGION. One point of clarification: the Pilgrim pipeline proposal is for TWO pipelines: 18" southbound (carrying Bakken crude oil) and 16" northbound (taking products like diesel) back to Albany. Millions of gallons of crude oil will flow every day. Leaks and ruptures between turn-off valves could be hundreds of thousands of gallons. Most leaks are discovered by residents, not the company (if they are detected at all). We won't get cheaper fuel prices along the way. In New Jersey, we are already at the center of an energy hub and experience some of the cheapest gasoline prices in the nation. Here are a few data points: There were 400 reported pipeline incidents with 119,200 Barrels spilled resulting in \$266 Million in Property Damage in 2013. (Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.) The 10 year average (2004 - 2013) is 631 incidents/year with 97,263 Barrels/year spilled resulting in \$494 Million in Property Damage. (2http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20130911/exclusive-pipeline-safety-chief-says-his-regulatory-process-kind-dying) Between 1990 and 2007 oil pipelines spilled two to three times more oil than barges. (Forbes Magazine April 2014) Between 1996 and 2007 pipelines spilled more than two to three times as much oil as trains. (http://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesconca/2014/04/26/pick-your-poison-for-crude-pipeline-rail-truck-or-boat) We should visualize that this is what oil pipeline leaks can look like: https://www.google.com/search?q=oil+pipeline+leak&client=firefox-a&hs=y0e&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&channel=flb&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=ENVeVLY-Doa1sQST3oDADQ&ved=0CEEQsAQ&biw=1509&bih=761 Thousands of oil spills nationwide go unreported to the public. Laws permit this. Example from one state: http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/10/25/north-dakota-oil-spill/3189101/ Oil pipeline safety regulations are incomplete and often lax. We cannot entrust our water security and our special towns to them. http://www.propublica.org/article/pipelines-explained-how-safe-are-americas-2.5-million-miles-of-pipelines Even after disruptive pipeline construction, major maintenance projects and disturbance cause strain on homeowners and impair property values. While this is bad enough, it is nothing compared to the risk of leaks in two massive new oil pipelines through our towns and water supplies. Here is a list of 40 of the many U.S. oil and oil products pipeline spills in the past 5 years for reasons including lightning, corrosion, faulty parts, improper construction, and landowner mistakes. (It appears that my reference footnote links are not working in this Comment format, but the links work here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_pipeline_accidents_in_the_United_States_in_the_21st_century" 2014. On October 13, a Sunoco/Mid-Valley crude oil pipeline ruptured, and spilled about 168,000 gallons of crude oil in Caddo Parish, Louisiana. On August 20, about 100 gallons of crude oil spilled from a pipeline at a tank facility at the Port of Albany in Albany, New York. Workers on a routine inspection of the above-ground pipeline noticed oil spraying out of a faulty gasket and shut off valves.[471] On May 6, Sinclair Oil Company pipeline detected a pressure drop on a pipeline, with the problem being traced 2 days later to a leak in Knox County, Missouri. A mixture of gasoline and diesel fuel contaminated soil on a farm.[467] On March 18, a 20-inch Mid-Valley Pipeline Company pipeline failed in Hamilton County, Ohio, spilling at least 364 barrels of crude oil into the adjacent Oak Glen Nature Preserve. On March 6, contractors working for Shell Oil Company hit Shell's Houston-to-Houma (Ho-Ho) crude oil pipeline near Port Neches, Texas, spilling 364 barrels of crude oil.[456] 2013 On December 20, a Sunoco pipeline was found leaking gasoline, near Coal Township, Pennsylvania, from external corrosion. The initial spill size was reported as 2 gallons, but, later on, 480 tons of soil were removed as part of the remediation of that leak. On October 29, a Koch Industries 8-inch pipeline spill about 400 barrels of crude oil near Smithville, Texas. The oil polluted a private stock pond and two overflow reservoirs. [440] On October 7, authorities were notified of a Lion Oil Trading and Transportation crude oil pipeline leak in Columbia County, Arkansas. It was estimated that the leak started on September 21. Oil spread into a Horsehead Creek tributary.[436] On August 14, a leak developed on a valve on Longhorn Pipeline in Austin, Texas during maintenance, spilling about 300 gallons of crude oil. On July 26, a leaking BP 20-inch crude oil pipeline spilled 50 to 100 barrels of crude oil in Washington County, Oklahoma. Some of the crude spilled into a drainage ditch leading to a water reservoir.[427] On July 23, a downed 13,000 volt power line sparked a massive gas fire in Mamaroneck, New York when a gas main was damaged by the electricity. 3 automobiles were destroyed, and homes were threatened for a time On March 29, ExxonMobil pipeline carrying Canadian Wabasca heavy crude from the Athabasca oil sands ruptured in Mayflower, Arkansas, about 25 miles northwest of Little Rock. Approximately 12,000 barrels (1,900 m3) of oil mixed with water had been recovered by March 31. Twenty-two homes were evacuated.[1] The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classified the leak as a major spill. A reported 5,000-7,000 barrels of crude were released. [39] On March 18, a Chevron 8-inch petroleum products pipeline ruptured along a seam, spilling diesel fuel into Willard Bay State Park near Ogden, Utah. 2012 On November 20, about 38,000 gallons of crude oil spilled from an Enbridge pipeline at a tank farm in Mokena, Illinois.[388][389] An Enbridge crude oil pipeline ruptured in Grand Marsh, Wisconsin, releasing an estimated 1,200 barrels of crude oil. The pipeline had been installed in 1998. Flaws in the longitudinal welds had been seen during X-ray checks of girth welds On July 17, a West Shore Pipe Line petroleum products pipeline burst near Jackson, Wisconsin, releasing about 54,000 gallons of gasoline. At least one family self evacuated due to the leak. At least 44 water wells nearby were contaminated from benzene in the gasoline, including a municipal well. A LF-ERW seam failure was suspected as the cause. Further testing revealed that at least 26 other areas on this pipeline needed repairs, with 22 within the Jackson Marsh Wildlife Area On April 28, an ExxonMobil 20/22-inch-diameter pipeline ruptured near Torbert in Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana, about 20 miles west of Baton Rouge, and crude oil spilled into the surrounding area, and flowed into an unnamed tributary connected to Bayou Cholpe. About 117,000 gallons of crude were spilled, with about 37,000 gallons being lost. The pipeline failed due to a manufacturing defect On March 17, a crude oil pipeline leaked near Grand Isle, Louisiana on March 17, spilling as much as 8,400 gallons of crude oil. On February 15, 2012, in Arenac County, Michigan, oil was discovered in the soil around a 30-inch Enbridge crude oil pipeline. On January 18, the original Colonial Pipeline mainline failed in Belton, South Carolina, spilling about 13,500 gallons of petroleum product. The failure was caused by internal corrosion. On January 12, a Sunoco pipeline ruptured and spilled about 117,000 gallons of gasoline in Wellington, Ohio, late on January 12. Some residents were evacuated for a week 2011 On December 10, a landowner using a bulldozer hit an 8-inch and a 12-inch petroleum pipelines near Nemaha, Nebraska, rupturing both lines. The spill size was estimated to be 119,000 gallons of gasoline, jet fuel, and diesel fuel. Some of the fuels flowed into a creek leading into Jasper Creek. [330][331][332][333] A 2-inch crude oil gathering pipeline failed in Oklahoma on October 12, spilling about 120 barrels of oil. On September 20, a landowner digging to lay drainage tile hit a 10-inch gasoline pipeline near Aurelius, New York, spilling about 3,300 US gallons (12 m3) of gasoline. On August 31, a pipeline carrying heating oil was hit by construction workers in East Providence, Rhode Island, spraying oil on roofs, trees, and pavement, and flowed into storm drains. At least 56,000 US gallons (210,000 L) of oil were spilled.[314] On July 1, a 12-inch Exxon Mobil crude oil pipeline, also known as the Silvertip Pipeline, ruptured, and spilled 60,000 gallons of oil into the Yellowstone River in south-central Montana. There was confusion in the pipeline control room, causing a delayed pipeline shutdown. Some residents of Laurel, Montana had to be evacuated.[296][297] The break near Billings fouled the riverbank and forced municipalities and irrigation districts to close intakes.[298][299] On July 1, a 2-inch lateral on a crude oil pipeline rupture in Huntington Beach, California. A major road, Goldenwest Street, had to be closed for cleaning and pipeline repairs.[295] On May 19, a 10-inch crude oil pipeline ruptured near Maysville, Oklahoma. Over 42,000 US gallons (160,000 L) of crude were lost. There was no fire. Internal pipeline corrosion was the cause.[293][294] On May 7, a threaded connection failed on a Keystone Pipeline pump at a station in Sargent County, North Dakota, spilling about 400 barrels of crude oil. Due to a number of other leaks on this pipeline system, Keystone's owner, TransCanada Corporation, was given a Corrective Action Order by PHMSA.[291] April 13, a farmer and rancher near White Oak Township, Michigan smelled gasoline on April 13, and discovered gasoline from a products pipeline leaking into a drainage ditch. As of late September, an estimated 460,000 gallons of gasoline had been released, with about 111,000 gallons of it recovered.[290] On February 24, a pipeline near Texas City, Texas ruptured, sending up to 5,000 US gallons (19,000 L) of gasoline into Bayou Pierre.[283][284] 2010 On December 21, a crude oil pipeline was discovered leaking into the Dominguez Channel in the Port of Los Angeles, California. Over 1,000 gallons of crude oil was recovered, but the pipeline company was alleged to have failed to report the spill to State or Federal pipeline authorities. A 61 count criminal complaint was later filed in this accident.[267] On December 14, a pipeline leaks crude oil near Lockport, Illinois. EPA officials say the spill is near wetlands that house several endangered species. Federal officials say about 21,000 US gallons (79,000 L) of oil were released in Lockport and Romeoville, about 35 miles (56 km) southwest of Chicago.[265] On December 1, a valve on a crude oil pipeline leaked about 500 barrels (79 m3) of crude in Salt Lake City, Utah. This failure was only 100 yards from a June 2010 failure on the same pipeline.[263] On August 10, the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Justice Department announced that Plains All American Pipeline and several of its operating subsidiaries have agreed to spend approximately \$41 million to upgrade 10,420 miles (16,770 km) of crude oil pipeline operated in the United States. The settlement resolves Plains' Clean Water Act violations for 10 crude oil spills in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Kansas, and requires the company to pay a \$3.25 million civil penalty.[247] On July 26, Enbridge Energy Partners LLP (Enbridge), reported that a 30-inch (760 mm) pipeline belonging to Enbridge burst in Marshall, Michigan. Enbridge had numerous alarms from the affected Line 6B, but controllers thought the alarms were from phase separation, and the leak was not reported to Enbridge for 17 hours. Enbridge estimates over 800,000 US gallons (3,000,000 L) of crude oil leaked into Talmadge Creek, a waterway that feeds the Kalamazoo River,[241][242] whereas EPA reports over 1,139,569 gallons of oil have been recovered as of November 2011.[243] On June 12, a Chevron crude oil pipeline, damaged by lightning, ruptured, causing 800 barrels (130 m³) of crude to spill into Red Butte Creek in Salt Lake City, Utah. Crude then flowed in a pond in Liberty Park.[239] On May 23, a BP pipeline carrying gasoline leaked nearly 93,000 US gallons (350,000 L) into a farm field over the Memorial Day weekend. The leak occurred in Constantine Township, St. Joseph County, Michigan.[31][235] On April 5, a crude oil pipeline ruptures near Green River, Wyoming, on April 5. At least 84,000 US gallons (320,000 L) of crude were spilled. Corrosion in the pipeline was the cause.[31] On March 1, Mid-Valley Pipeline identified a release of crude oil in the manifold area of the Mid-Valley tank farm in Longview, TX. Crude oil was observed "gushing" from the soil in the manifold area, and 198 barrels of crude oil were estimated to have been released and 196 barrels were recovered from the secondary containment area within Mid-Valley's site.[232] On January 2, Enbridge's Line 2 ruptured near Neche, North Dakota, releasing about 3,784 barrels of crude oil, of which only 2,237 barrels of were recovered. The cause was a material defect.[225][226]

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