

WORLDWIDE PIPELINE INCIDENTS - APRIL 2002**April 6, 2002 Louisiana Pipeline Leak Contaminates Bayou**

A BP-Amoco pipeline ruptured and released about 100,000 gallons of oil into a coastal area known as Little Lake. BP Amoco shut down the pipeline as soon as it became aware of the spill and notified Garner Environmental, which dispatched five boats to begin containment and cleanup. It was not immediately clear what caused the rupture in the line that runs from the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port to the Alliance Refinery near New Orleans or to what extent the spill may have damaged marine or coastal wildlife.

February 26, 2002 Confusion leads to Extended Chicago Gas Leak

City workers repairing a sewer line ruptured a gas line, causing Chicago's largest natural gas outage in a quarter-century. The crew encountered an abandoned cast-iron pipe in the ground, and in attempting to remove it they accidentally broke the gas line. A propane heater crews were using ignited the leaking gas, causing an explosion felt blocks away and leading to a fire with flames shooting 60 ft into the air. Two workers suffered minor burns, and three homes sustained damage. According to some reports, because of the peculiarities of the ageing gas infrastructure, it took three hours to determine which gas lines had leaked

January 31, 2002 Blast, Fire Kill 4 at Kuwaiti Production Facility

Four people died in a huge blast at a key oil-producing area in the north of OPEC member Kuwait. Officials say the explosion was caused by a leak from a pipeline that spread to a power substation. The fire occurred after an explosion rocked the Raudhatain oil field setting ablaze about half of an oil gathering center, a gas booster station and a power substation near the Iraqi border. Officials reported that the fire was a result of a technical fault, not terrorism or sabotage. The KOC facility is one of the most important in the north, but officials said Kuwait could compensate for the lost supply from other fields. The blaze hit gas booster station 130 and a part of gathering centre 15, which collects crude from a series of fields and can process 280,000 barrels per day (bpd), officials said.

January 25, 2002 Pennsylvania Water Line Blast Injures 5

Five Pennsylvania-American Water Co. workers who were installing waterlines were injured while attempting to release air pressure to charge the waterlines when an abnormal amount of pressure built up in a 24-inch main line. The line exploded, throwing two of the workers 10m out of the hole and onto the road.

January 9, 2002 First Columbian Pipeline Bombings of 2002

The Cano Limon oil pipeline was knocked out by a rebel bomb in the first such attack of this year. The pipeline -- bombed a record 170 times in 2001 -- should be repaired by 01.12, provided that there are no new rebel attacks. Each day the oil pipeline is knocked out costs Colombia \$3 million, according to oil industry analysts. Between January 9-18, the pipeline was attacked a total of 4 times.

January 3, 2002 Nigerian Pipeline Sabotage may close Refineries

Two Nigerian refineries may shut down this weekend following sabotage of pipelines supplying crude oil to the refineries. All the valves and lines supplying crude to the two refineries have been closed down, apparently to check further spill into the vicinity. The incident resulted in a massive oil spill into the environment, destroying the aquatic life in the area.

December 14, 2001 Iowa Ammonia Pipeline Leak Leads to Massive Fish Kill

The anhydrous ammonia spill near Algona killed nearly 1.3 million fish- the largest fish kill on state record, Iowa state officials said. More than 58,000 gallons of anhydrous ammonia over a 9 hour period spilled from a broken pipeline owned by Koch Industries Inc. into Lotts Creek and the Des Moines River killing minnows, bass and other game fish. The contaminated water that has reached the Des Moines River will likely take about six days to reach Des Moines, where the river is used as a source of drinking water. Koch Pipeline, a Texas company that owns the 8-inch pipeline, was doing maintenance work on a valve on the pipeline. Officials said the plume drifted over a six-mile area causing officials to evacuate residents in its path.

November 14, 2001 UK Gas Explosion Injures 6

Six people were injured, one critically, in a gas explosion at a block of Manchester apartments. The explosion occurred less than an hour after residents were allowed to return home following an earlier gas scare. The building is not connected to the gas supply and it is believed that the gas came from outside of the building and seeped in.

October 4, 2001 Vandals Pierce Trans-Alaska Pipeline, cause major leak

A bullet pierced the trans-Alaska oil pipeline, causing a major leak and temporarily shutting down operations of the North Slope oil production. Cleanup crews were kept away for several hours as police searched the area for a suspect who was later arrested. It is the first time a bullet has pierced the pipeline, but not the first time the line has been the target of vandals. The 48-inch pipe is protected by an outer layer of galvanized steel and nearly 100 mm of insulation. The steel wall of the pipe is about 12 mm thick. An act of sabotage on the pipeline in 1978 resulted in a spill of 16,000 barrels of oil. A hole was blasted in the line with explosives at Steele Creek, near Fairbanks. No one was ever arrested in connection with that attack. A Canadian man was charged two years ago with plotting to blow up the pipeline as part of an effort to drive up oil prices and reap a profit.

September 7, 2001 Chinese Pipeline Blast Leads to Mass Evacuation

A welder ignited a fire while repairing a pipeline used to unload crude oil from ships at a pier in Maoming, a port in Guangdong province, according to Weng Guoqiang, a city official. The pipeline exploded, setting off a second and much larger blast involving all 12 of the pier's pipelines. The fireball from the second explosion was more than 150 feet high, he said. Twenty thousand people were evacuated and the nearby oil refinery, the largest in China, was forced to close. The refinery operator, Sinopec Corporation, said it has rerouted oil tankers to another port. State television showed emergency crews in Maoming spraying white foam onto flames leaping from the damaged pipes. Evacuated residents were allowed to return within a few hours.

August 22, 2001 Louisiana Ammonia Leak Forces Evacuation, Blamed on Vandals

About 75 people were evacuated for three days after an ammonia leak blamed on vandals. Ammonia began escaping from two points of a Koch Pipeline Co. line between Louisiana Highway 8 and Little River in Grant Parish. Someone had drilled into a valve, probably to get ammonia to make methamphetamine. A few people were treated for nausea and a state police hazardous materials expert for heat stress.

August 17, 2001 Rural Oil Pipeline Fails, Contaminates Field

An Oklahoman BP Amoco crude oil pipeline ruptured after being struck by a machine cleaning roadside ditches, sending oil 30 feet into the air and damaging nearby cotton crops with up to 150,000 gallons spilled. The Jackson County Commissioner's Office constructed dikes to help contain the spilled oil. The pipeline, which originates in Sundown, Texas, and continues to Cushing, was repaired within 18 hours and put back in service.

June 19, 2001 Nigerian Pipeline Leak and Fire Kills Siphoners

Up to 30 people were killed as a result of a fire which ignited gasoline being siphoned from a Nigeria National Petroleum Company pipeline. The fire extended to surrounding farmland and was burning as of June 24. There was no immediate comment from company officials.

Third Accident This Month for Brazil's Petrobras - May 31, 2001

Brazil's state-owned oil giant Petrobras said that an oil spill into a posh residential neighborhood in the town of Barueri in Sao Paulo state took place on May 30. Another spill at its Paulinia pipeline a day earlier had dumped 220,000 liters of oil. This is the company's third accident in May. Transport through the oil duct between the Paulinia refinery and Barueri terminal had been suspended. A week ago, Petrobras shut down 12 offshore rigs after detecting an oil slick on the ocean surface off the Rio de Janeiro coast. Output at 13 offshore platforms was stopped for days a week earlier.

BP Amoco to pay \$804,700 US-EPA Fine for Oil Spill - April 23, 2001

BP Amoco has agreed to pay a \$804,700 fine for violating the federal Clean Water Act by dumping almost 162,500 gallons of oil in a Kansas river, according to the U.S. EPA. The wrongdoing occurred in January 1994 by a pipeline affiliate of Atlantic Richfield. BP Amoco assumed the liabilities of Atlantic Richfield when it merged with the company last year. The oil was dumped in the Marais des Cygnes River in Osawatomie, Kansas, disrupting the town's water supply for 38 days during the winter of 1994. The oil spill was caused by a break in a pipeline owned at the time by ARCO. In addition to the fine, BP Amoco agreed to spend at least \$145,300 on a supplemental environmental project involving reconstruction improvements to Osawatomie's water intake.

Pipeline Break Leaks Oil, Saltwater on Alaska Tundra - April 18, 2001

A hole in a pipeline used for transporting by-products at the Kuparuk oil field on Alaska's North Slope has resulted in the biggest spill of industrial material onto the tundra in recent years, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) said on April 17. The leak, discovered on Sunday night, caused a spill of 92,400 gallons of so-called "produced water," a mixture of salty water and oil. While the oil represents only 3% of the volume from the discharge, the material is harmful to the tundra anyway, and according to DEC has about the same toxicity as diesel fuel. Also, saltwater, if it seeps into the earth, kills the tundra plants and has lingering effects. The general strategy for cleaning saltwater from the tundra is to flush the area with fresh water, he said. The cleanup is expected to last for a few weeks, he said. The processed water contains salt because the oil producers use sea water to boost oil recovery. Sea water is injected into the earth to build reservoir pressure.

Updates to 1999 Bellingham, Washington Pipeline Rupture and Explosion that Killed Three - February 10, 2001 Damage to pipeline that ruptured 'more extensive' than previously known

The Olympic Pipe Line segment that ruptured and exploded 20 months ago in Bellingham, Washington had 27 additional gouges on it at the time of the spill,

according to a report by the National Transportation Safety Board. Of the gouges, 13 dented the pipe to the point they could be measured from inside the pipeline, the report shows. The report provides the most detailed description to date of the state of the pipe when it ruptured in a Bellingham park on June 10, 1999, spilling more than 200,000 gallons of gasoline that ignited into a fireball. Two 10-year-old boys and a 19-year-old man were killed and the disaster left a swath of destruction along Whatcom Creek.

February 7, 2001 U.S. Northwest pipeline to reopen after fatal 1999 blast

The U.S. Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) said on Wednesday it had approved the reopening of a 37-mile section of a refined oil products pipeline that has been closed since a fatal explosion in Washington State in June 1999. The OPS said the Olympic pipeline will be allowed to operate at a reduced pressure under federal government supervision with tests being conducted to assess its performance before allowing it to go back to full operational service. The section that was closed is part of a 400-mile pipeline system in Washington and Oregon. The closure cut off oil refineries in Washington operated by BP Amoco and Toco Corp. from the rest of the system

Gas Pipeline Explosion in Philadelphia Closes Area Highway (December 23, 2000)

A gas pipeline exploded in flames, lighting up the night sky and closing sections of Interstate 76. No injuries were reported. The blowout at a Philadelphia Gas Works plant left about 1,000 customers with low gas pressure Saturday, and some with no heat, and the company asked its approximately 500,000 customers to cut back on using the fuel. Highs for that day reached only into the twenties. The closure of I-76 delayed traffic for several hours, including departing fans from a Knicks-76ers basketball game.

Texaco Investigates Deaths Linked to Oil Pollution from Nigerian Plant (December 15, 2000)

Texaco announced it was investigating nine deaths, including eight children, in Nigeria's Niger Delta which a newspaper linked to oil pollution from one of its facilities. The independent Guardian newspaper, quoting the environmental rights group Environmental Rights Action, said a chemical discharge from Texaco's offshore Funiwa 5 oil platform, seeped into rivers and streams in southern Bayelsa State, resulting in the deaths. There has been conflict in the Niger Delta over the effects of oil pollution from ongoing oil extraction activities there.

Eight Dead, 19 Injured in Ecuador Pipeline Bombing (December 13, 2000)

At least eight people were killed and 19 wounded Wednesday in one of three bomb attacks against Ecuador's main oil pipeline near the border with Colombia. The victims were traveling in a passing bus shortly after midnight when the second of three blasts hit the pipeline in the Amazon jungle province of Sucumbios near the Colombian border, about 85 miles northeast of Quito. It was the eighth time this year that the pipeline, which stretches 311 miles from the oil-rich Amazon jungle region to a refinery on the coast, has been paralyzed. Government officials insisted the origin of the blast was external, although some critics speculated that the origin could be from the pipeline itself (which was built in 1972). Colombian rebels operate along the border and have often dynamited oil pipelines in Colombia to extort money and to protest what they call foreign exploitation of the country's natural resources. The explosions also caused some 3,000 barrels of oil to leak from the pipeline, most of which burned off in a blaze that died down when the pipeline was shut off.