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Enbridge Backgrounder
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Enbridge Inc. was founded in 1949 as the Interprovincial Pipe Line Company. It's now based in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Enbridge owns pipeline 6b that malfunctioned and spilled oil into Talmadge Creek near Marshall, MI sometime on the weekend of July 24th. The company specializes in the transportation of oil, natural gas, and other liquids. It has recently begun to diversify into renewable energy.

Enbridge is the single largest transporter of oil into the United States. It has pipelines stretching from British Columbia and Alberta in Western Canada, and from Quebec in Eastern Canada, into the Midwestern U.S. Enbridge is also Canada's largest transporter of crude oil operating 9,500 miles of pipeline, and delivering more than two million barrels of crude oil and liquids per day. The company is growing rapidly with investments of some \$12 billion mostly dedicated to expanding its American pipeline and terminal network. This investment is largely directed towards the increased production of Canadian oil sands. This dirtier oil is transported into U.S. markets for refining.

The EPA estimates the current spill is to be more than a million gallons. For some context, in the last decade there were 62 previous pipeline spills in Michigan. All told, these spills accounted for a total of about 150,000 gallons.

Enbridge has a history of spills and safety issues. In 2009 alone, Enbridge cites that it had 93 reportable spills, six characterized as "significant." According to the *Battle Creek Enquirer* the government has cited Enbridge 31 times since 2002, including two "corrective action orders" which are the most serious regulatory actions.

Pipeline 6b, the same pipeline that was damaged near Marshall, MI, was cited in January of 2010 by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) for improper monitoring of its corrosion near Griffith, Indiana.

Enbridge built a pipeline through Wisconsin in 2007 and 2008 that had numerous problems. Ultimately, the company settled with that state for \$1,100,000 for violations "relating to wetlands, streambeds, bridges, land disturbances and erosion control navigable waters and wetlands." Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen said that, "while some of the individual violations were likely of limited direct impact, the incidents of violation were numerous and widespread, and resulted in impacts to the streams and wetlands throughout the various watersheds."

The Enbridge 6b pipeline is just one line. There are 1,178 miles of crude oil pipelines criss-crossing the state. Since 2003 Enbridge has had five significant incidents with its pipelines in Michigan, including incidents near Lake Huron and the St. Clair River in Bay City and Marysville, MI.

Sources:

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http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/reports/safety/SigPSIDet_2000_2009_MI.html?nocache=7669#all

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Enbridge Inc.:

<http://www.enbridge.com/AboutEnbridge/InteractiveMap.aspx>

"Oil spill now stretches 35 miles; Gov knocks firm's response" - Jim Lynch, The Detroit News

<http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20100729/METRO/7290419/Oil-spill-now-stretches-35-miles--Gov-knocks-firm-s-response#ixzz0v6lG65FR>

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