

## The Beardmore Blast & “Energy-East”: Not if -- but when and where...



An explosion in Beardmore Ont. is seen in this image on Saturday, Feb 19, 2011.

---

- The natural gas pipeline which ruptured and exploded in Beardmore is the same pipeline that Trans Canada Pipeline (TCP) plans to use for the “Energy East” pressurized transportation of tar sands dilbit-crude from Alberta to New Brunswick – at the rate of 1.1 million barrels per day!
- In its investigative report on the Beardmore Blast, the Canadian Transportation Board (TSB) concluded that the rupture in the *40 year old pipeline* was due to *stress corrosion cracking*, after the line *had lost its protective coating* to soil stress and groundwater.
- Further, TSB noted that the electrical protection had ceased to work because the current couldn’t actually reach the surface of the pipeline steel.
- TSB also concluded that, despite regulated monitoring, TCP was unable to detect the problem, and “as such no specific remedial measures were deemed necessary”.

### What happened in Kalamazoo Michigan

- The biggest spill in North American history was tarsands dilbit-crude shipped from Alberta by Enbridge Inc. In July 2010 approximately 870,000 gals. were spilled over 17 hours into a creek which feeds into the Kalamazoo River.
- Cost for clean-up is over \$1 billion, and after 3 years is not yet complete.
- The US National Transportation Safety Board found that the leak was due to *small corrosion-fatigue cracks* that grew *after the line lost its protective coating*.
- A report in 2005, prior to the leak, found that there were 15,000 known defects in the *40 year old pipe*.

### TCP’s Keystone 1 Pipeline

- Began carrying Alberta dilbit in 2010. Yet, “*even with the newest technologies*”, according to an article in the April 4/13 edition of Scientific American -- this brand-new pipeline “*has already suffered 14 different leaks*”.

### Not “IF” but “When – and Where”?

- From what you have just read would you not also conclude that a spill in a 40 year old pipeline designed for natural gas, and inadequately regulated, is not a matter of chance, or vague possibility? Rather, don’t you think -- it’s a clear matter of when and where.

\* \* \*

A project that carries this particularly destructive product through poorly regulated old gas pipelines is especially dangerous. It is ill-conceived and foolish, feeding an economy driven by consumption and greed, and wilfully ignorant of the consequences of severe environmental damage and the ever growing threat of fossil-fueled climate change. CUSP believes that for such reasons citizens need to fully review all energy projects before they proceed.

**Check our website at [sustainableplanet.ca](http://sustainableplanet.ca). We care about our future.**