

Pipeline leaks small amount of oil in northern Minnesota

A small oil spill in a pipeline northwest of Bemidji, Minn., forced two large crude oil pipelines to close for several hours, a spokesman for the pipeline company said today.

Star Tribune

Last update: November 14, 2007 – 10:19 AM

A small oil spill in a pipeline northwest of Bemidji, Minn., forced two large crude oil pipelines to close for several hours, a spokesman for the pipeline company said today.

One line operated by Enbridge Inc. of Calgary, Alberta, which pumps 450,000 barrels of oil a day from Alberta to its hub in Superiors, Wis., was stilled for about 18 hours after the spill from a "pinhole leak" was detected Tuesday morning by one of its workers, said company spokesman Larry Springer.

The spill, about 3 miles southeast of Clearbrook and amounting to no more than two barrels, also prompted the closure of another pipeline nearby for a shorter period as the company worked to determine which of the two lines had leaked, Springer said.

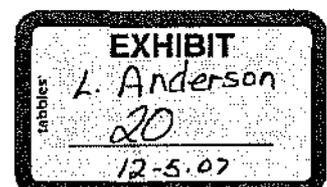
Repairs were made and both lines are now operating, he said.

All contaminated soil near a county road in the sparsely populated area was cleaned up and hauled to a disposal site, he said.

Springer said investigators are trying to determine how the leak occurred. The steel pipe is 34 inches in diameter, and its top is 3 to 4 feet below ground.

Enbridge operates the world's longest crude oil and liquids pipeline system. PAUL WALSH

© 2007 Star Tribune. All rights reserved.



Anderson Exhibit #20