

Past Problems For Company At Heart Of Spill

BY TIM MARTIN AND DAVID RUNK
Associated Press Writers

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. — A Canadian company whose pipeline leaked hundreds of thousands of gallons of oil into a Michigan river has experienced leaks, an explosion and dozens of regulatory violations in the past decade throughout the Great Lakes region and elsewhere in the U.S.

Enbridge Inc. or its affiliates have been cited for 30 enforcement actions since 2002 by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration — the U.S. Department of Transportation's regulatory arm. They include a warning letter sent Jan. 21 in which the agency told the company it may have violated safety codes by improperly monitoring corrosion in the pipeline responsible for the massive spill Monday in Talmadge Creek, a waterway in Calhoun County's Marshall Township that flows into the Kalamazoo River.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimated the spill at more than 1 million gallons of oil, saying it had traveled 25 miles downstream. The state estimates it has traveled 35 miles. Gov. Jennifer Granholm warned of a "tragedy of historic proportions" should it travel an additional 80 miles and reach Lake Michigan and the vacation communities that depend on it.

Steve Wuori, an Enbridge

executive vice president, said the company was doing maintenance all along the pipeline, but the section at the leak site was not scheduled for replacement.

After being criticized for dragging their feet in their initial response to the Monday spill, company officials have pushed the message that they're doing all they can to clean and contain it. Enbridge CEO Patrick D. Daniel again apologized Thursday to the residents of Calhoun County "for the mess that we have made" to the river and nearby properties.

"We take full responsibility and we will be here until you are happy in this community," Daniel said. "We still have a huge job in front of us, there's no doubt about that."

On Thursday, hundreds of workers and contractors went to work on the oil with more than 12,000 feet of containment and absorption boom, 14 skimmers, 43 vacuum trucks and a number of tanker trucks, excavators and other trucks, Enbridge said. The EPA said cleanup efforts will take several weeks.

Health officials went door-to-door to advise residents in about 30 to 50 homes near the spill to evacuate because of air quality concerns. Calhoun County health official Jim Rutherford said. He said health officials were advising residents of about 100 homes near the river that use well water to use bottled water for drinking and cooking.

Fire Dept. Stops Propane Leak On Tow Truck

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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The Yankton Fire Department managed to contain a propane leak early Thursday morning and avert a potential catastrophe.

A report was received at 1:11 a.m. that a tow truck at Stealth Auto in the 100 block of Douglas Avenue was leaking propane. The owner of the business had been working, and when he came outside he discovered the problem.

It is believed that the leak sprouted on the propane-powered vehicle between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m.

"We made the decision to bring a fire truck in," said

Yankton Deputy Fire Chief Larry Nickles. "We used water fog to dissipate the propane while we were trying to shut off the leak. The valve was actually iced up because of the amount of propane that was flowing, and we used water to melt it down before shutting it off."

The propane was hanging thick enough in the air that a lit cigarette or a vehicle starting up may have ignited a fire, he added.

Firefighters were on scene for about an hour, and the situation was resolved without any damage done.

About 30 percent of the propane in the 80-gallon tank was lost, Nickles said.

Ex Neb. Broker Wants Her Fraud Trial Moved

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb. (AP) — One of two former Nebraska City brokers accused of defrauding investors out of more than \$20 million is asking to have her trial moved.

Rebecca Engle says in a recent court motion that she doesn't think she can get a fair trial anywhere in eastern Nebraska. A hearing will be held this fall.

Engle and former Nebraska football player Brian Schuster are accused of improperly selling

risky investments in several inter-related Florida companies to more than 130 investors.

Most of the investors involved in these cases were nearing retirement age or had already retired, so they wanted conservative, stable investments with little risk. They claim Engle and Schuster instead invested their money in high-risk enterprises and never fully explained the risks.

OBITUARIES

Jack Breckenridge

John Lintner "Jack" Breckenridge, age 91, of Yankton, South Dakota, died Sunday, July 25, 2010 at the Wakonda Heritage Manor in Wakonda, South Dakota.

Memorial services are 2:00 PM, Saturday, July 31, 2010 at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with Reverend Ron Johnson officiating. Inurnment will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery Yankton with military honors provided by the Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post No. 791. Gathering of family and friends is from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, on Friday at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with a prayer service at 7:00 PM.

Honorary pallbearers are Don Schultz and members of the Yankton Lions Club.

Jack Breckenridge was born



Breckenridge

June 10, 1919 in Mitchell, South Dakota to Claude Lintner Breckenridge and Julia Davis Graves. Jack grew up in Ethan, South Dakota and graduated from Mitchell High School. He attended South Dakota State University where he received a degree in Agricultural Economics. After college, he joined the United States Air Force and was honorably discharged. He married his college sweetheart, Jean Elizabeth Schmidt, of Garretson, South Dakota on June 16, 1944 in San Angelo, Texas while he was in the Air Force. Jack and Jean returned to Mitchell, South Dakota where he started his career as a Company Salesman

for Firestone Tires. His territory included South Central South Dakota and Northeast Nebraska where he made many friends along the way. In 1964, Jack moved the family to Yankton, and he retired from Firestone in the mid 1980s.

Jack was an active member of the local Yankton Lions Club. Jack's favorite sport was baseball, and after his retirement, he spent several summers as a Little League Umpire. Jack enjoyed good conversation and fellowship during daily gatherings with friends at the local coffee shop where stories of hunting and fishing were shared.

He is survived by his wife, Jean Breckenridge of Yankton; two daughters, Nancy (Jerome) Kills Small of Wakonda and Susan (Arthur) Carter of Dallas, Texas; two sons, John (Rita) Breckenridge of Yankton and

Jeffrey (Tamara) Breckenridge of Pierre, South Dakota; five grandchildren: Jake, Anne, and John Carter and Luke and John Breckenridge.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Robert Breckenridge; and sister, Elizabeth "Betty" Jackson.

To post an online sympathy message or to view the video tribute, please visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

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Online condolences at:
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

Phillip Larson

MISSION HILL — Phillip Lawrence Larson was born in Amery, Wisconsin, on November 8, 1944, to Lawrence and Violet (Leib) Larson. He was baptized as an infant at Zion Lutheran Church, rural Almena, WI and confirmed at Faith Lutheran Church in Clayton, WI.

He graduated from Clayton High School and later attended the Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was part of the Golden Valley Lutheran College a cappella choir that toured Europe in the summer of 1967.

He married Velma Severson on June 23, 1968, and together they raised six children, adding another member to the family when he was 17.

Phillip worked for many years in the cheese factory in northwest Wisconsin, retiring



Larson

from there in February of 2007, when he moved to the Hoxeng / Severson family farm in rural Volin, South Dakota. He revealed in his retirement career as an assistant beekeeper, chortling that after many years of being a hobby beekeeper he was finally "getting paid to play!"

After many years of being an active member of Faith Lutheran Church in Clayton, Wisconsin, he became an active member of Vangen Lutheran Church in Mission Hill, South Dakota, serving as a trustee and a member of the Vangen Cemetery Board. He loved to sing and was a member of the Tri-Valley Barbershop Chorus in Viborg, SD.

Phillip was severely injured in

an automobile accident on Monday, July 26, 2010, and died of those injuries on July 28, 2010. Visitation will be held at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home in Yankton, South Dakota, on Friday, July 30, from 6-9 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:30 p.m. Funeral services will be at Vangen Lutheran Church in Mission Hill, South Dakota at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 31, 2010. Burial will be in the Vangen Lutheran Cemetery, Mission Hill, SD.

Left to mourn his passing are his wife, Rev. Velma Larson; children Gracia Larson (Jameel Saleh), Kendra (Geoff) McElhanon, Matthew Larson, John (Meiching Hu) Pesh, Sara Larson, Nina Larson, Adela (Marcos) MellaLalane; grandchildren Ryan Curtis, Brennan McElhanon, Kieron McElhanon, Alanna McElhanon, Clair HuPesh, Chloe HuPesh, and

Evaline MellaLalane; mother-in-law Helen Severson; sister Bernice (Roger) Goodrich; sisters-in-law Valerie Philipp, Valborg Severson, Vi (Jim) Ramsey, and brother-in-law Mark Severson; thirteen nieces and nephews and their spouses, many cousins, and a multitude of friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents, father-in-law Mel Severson, brothers-in-law Joe Severson and Paul Severson, and sisters-in-law Rita Severson and Virginia Severson.

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Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Christina Bell

VERMILLION — Christina M. Bell, 99, of Vermillion, formerly of Burbank, SD, passed away Wednesday (July 28, 2010) at Sanford Vermillion Care Center, Vermillion.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m., Saturday at First Baptist Church with burial to follow at Bluff View Cemetery, Vermillion. Visitation will be an hour prior to the service on Saturday at the church.

Iverson-Siecke-Kober Funeral Home, Vermillion is in charge of arrangements.

Harold Westin

ELK POINT — Harold B.

Westin, 59, of Elk Point, passed away Wednesday (July 28, 2010) at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, Sioux City, IA. Funeral arrangements are pending with Anderson-Siecke-Kober Funeral Home, Elk Point.

Louis Wampol

WAGNER — Louis Wampol, 102 of Wagner died Thursday (July 29, 2010) at his home in rural Wagner. His funeral service will be 10:30 a.m. Monday at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Wagner, with burial in the parish cemetery. Visitation will be 2-5 p.m. Sunday at Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Wagner, followed by a 7 p.m. wake service at the church.

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REGION DIGEST

Pavement Repairs Under Way On Highways

The South Dakota Department of Transportation began pavement repairs in the Yankton area Thursday.

The repairs will consist of:
• curb and gutter repair on Highway 50 in the city of Yankton;
• concrete repair at nine locations on Highway 81 between the cities of Yankton and Freeman; and
• concrete repair at various locations on Highway 52 from the city of Yankton west to the main entrance of the Lewis and Clark Recreation Area.

Traffic will be maintained around the work zones by signs and lane closures. All businesses and homes will remain accessible.

Traffic is advised to use caution, especially going out to the lake area where there will be areas of one-lane traffic on the west and east bound lanes.

It is anticipated that the repairs will take up to five weeks to complete.

The prime contractor is Dakota Contracting of Sioux Falls.

Yankton Street Closures Planned

The following streets are planned to be closed to all traffic at the times indicated.

- Burleigh Street — 8th to 11th: Monday, Aug. 2;
- Burleigh Street — 11th to 15th: Tuesday, Aug. 3; and
- Summit Street — 15th to 21st: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Aug. 4, 5 and 6.

Dates listed may be adjusted for weather and other conditions. No traffic will be able to travel on these streets while new asphalt pavement is being installed. Please anticipate taking alternate routes for these streets next week.

MMC To Host Final Nursing Day

New and prospective students interested in the nursing program at Mount Marty College are invited to attend a session of Summer Nursing Day held July 30 (today) from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Students will be able to meet with Nursing Faculty, tour campus, learn about financial assistance available, meet with admissions staff and register for classes.

Students who plan to attend the Nursing Day should bring copies of their high school transcripts, and any college transcripts as well as a copy of their 2009 tax return forms so a financial aid estimate can be given. Those planning to attend should contact the Mount Marty College Admissions Office at 605-668-1545 or 800-658-4552.

Press And Dakotan Policy Notice

Press releases should be submitted a minimum of two weeks prior to the event in order to allow time for placement in the paper.

All submitted stories and press releases must be typewritten or readable releases. The information should include who, what, when, where and why. There must be a contact name and phone number in case of questions.

No pricing information will be printed. It is your responsibility to include all contact information necessary.

All submitted photos should be uncropped, full-resolution and unedited color.

Submitted items including press releases, stories, meeting minutes and photos will be run at the discretion of the *Press and Dakotan* and as space allows.

Any submitted photo that you wish to have returned to you, should come with a self addressed stamped envelope.

Calendar items will include the name of the group, time held, location and contact number. It is your responsibility to verify that the information regarding your event is valid and current.

Birthdays, Birth, and Military notices should be submitted to the *Press and Dakotan* by Thursday noon, to be included in the following Monday's Life Section.

Scholastic information is run as space allows. Please submit all scholastic information including honor rolls in story format.

Meeting Minutes are allowed to have up to 250 words and should be submitted by noon on Tuesday to be included in Saturday's Hometown page. Minutes MUST be in story form. Any minutes submitted in outline form will not be printed.

The preferred method for all submitted items is to e-mail them to newsroom@yankton.net or mail them to: *Press and Dakotan*, Attn: Newsroom, 319 Walnut Street, Yankton, SD 57078.

Questions may be directed to Shauna at 605-665-7811 ext. 114.

Wagner Hospital Announces Ground Breaking

It is with great pride and excitement that Wagner Community Memorial Hospital - Avera's (WCMH-A) Board of Directors announces the ground breaking ceremonies for a \$4,000,000 new inpatient wing addition and hospital remodel project and cordially invites you to attend this momentous occasion. The event will be held on Monday August 2, 2010 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the east lawn of the hospital campus.

The project is funded by generous individual, family and business contributions to the "Building Healthcare for the Future" capital campaign which accumulated over \$890,000 of intentions to gift while demonstrating immense community wide support. This support was instrumental in securing the remaining funding of a \$309,000 Community Development Block Grant through the South Dakota Governor's office and \$2,750,000 in direct and guaranteed loans from USDA-RD.

The project is expected to be completed by the spring of 2012.

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