

Factual Information

Accident Synopsis

About 2:12 a.m., central daylight time, on July 4, 2002, a 34-inch-diameter steel pipeline owned and operated by Enbridge Pipelines (Lakehead), LLC¹ ruptured in a marsh west of Cohasset, Minnesota. (See figure 1.) Approximately 6,000 barrels (252,000 gallons) of crude oil were released from the pipeline as a result of the rupture. No deaths or injuries resulted from the release.

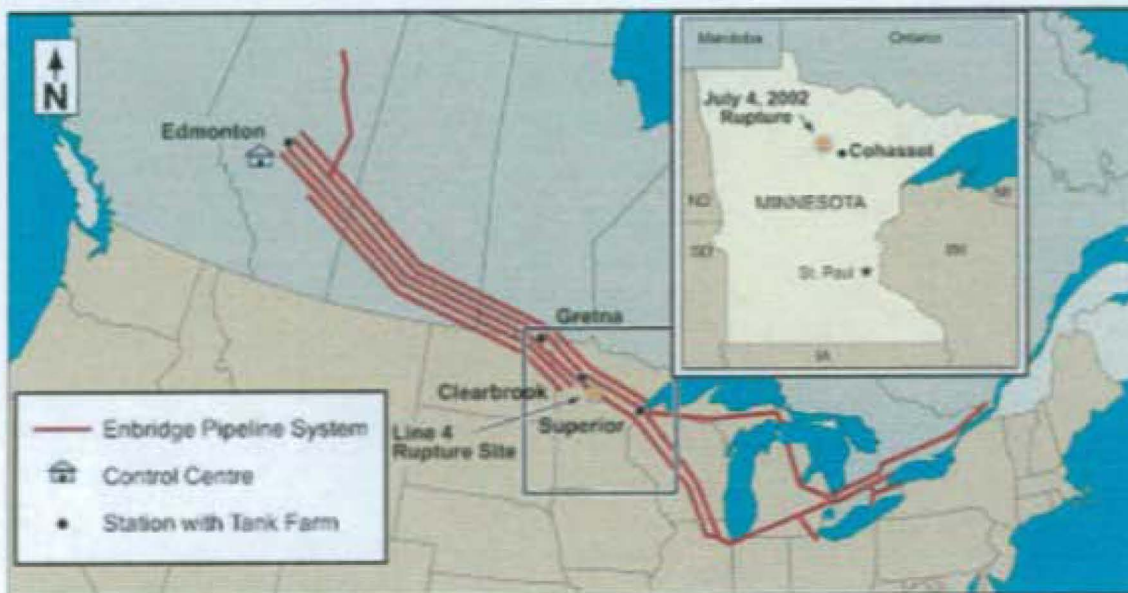


Figure 1. Enbridge pipeline system.

Accident Narrative

The crude oil pipeline involved in the accident originated at Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and terminated at Superior Terminal in Superior, Wisconsin. The 34-inch-diameter pipeline, designated line no. 4 at the time of the accident, was operated by pipeline controllers in the Enbridge control center in Edmonton using a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system.² About 2:12 a.m. on July 4, 2002, the

¹ Enbridge Pipelines (Lakehead), LLC is the operator of the pipeline system formerly named Lakehead Pipe Line Company.

² Pipeline controllers use a computer-based SCADA system to remotely monitor and control movement of oil through pipelines. The system makes it possible to monitor operating parameters critical to pipeline operations, such as flow rates, pressures, equipment status, control valve positions, and alarms indicating abnormal conditions.