

The pipeline industry categorically rejects the notion that pipelines are unsafe in Canada.

CALGARY, Dec. 14, 2011 /CNW/ - The fact that the recently released report by the *Federal Commissioner of the Environment and of Sustainable Development* indicated potential gaps in regulatory oversight does not in any way mean that the Canadian pipeline industry is unsafe.

Commitment to safety is our industry's number one priority. It is in our best interest and that of the public to operate a safe and reliable system. As a result of that commitment, we transport oil and gas products 365 days a year with a reliability factor of 99.98 percent. We are the safest mode of transportation of energy products.

We assess and adopt new technologies, and share best practices continuously. Our industry has adopted the CEPA Integrity First Program, an industry-wide management system whose goal is to reach zero pipeline incidents. In fact, Canadian pipeline operators are responsible for having developed many state of the art technical advancements and our pipelines are among the safest in the world.

We are very concerned when reports fail to provide context to their stories and create unnecessary public fears when the facts clearly show that the opposite is true.

One of the assertions made is that aging pipelines are a problem in Canada. That is not true. Pipeline operators adopt different management procedures and controls based on the characteristics of a particular pipeline system including age. Similar to a home, a 50-year old home can be as safe and livable as a 5-year old home if you adopt proper maintenance procedures.

As an industry that has built a vast network of energy highways for the past 60 years that has allowed Canadians to enjoy affordable, reliable and safe use of energy, we are proud of our record and responsibilities to the public we serve.

The Canadian Energy Pipeline Association (CEPA) represents Canada's transmission pipeline companies who operate more than 100,000 kilometres of pipeline in Canada and the United States. These energy highways move approximately 1.2 billion barrels of liquid petroleum products and 5.5 trillion cubic feet of natural gas each year. Our members transport 97 per cent of Canada's daily crude oil and natural gas from producing regions to markets throughout North America.

For further information:

For additional information on the Canadian pipeline industry, please visit our website: www.cepa.com

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