

Lighter Hydrocarbons Dilute Heavy Crude Oil to Transport Long Distances

The Enbridge pipeline system has transported a variety of liquid petroleum products, including light hydrocarbons, for years. One class of light hydrocarbons, referred to as “diluent,” are similar in nature to white gas or camping fuel used in a lantern or portable stove. Simply defined, diluent is a light hydrocarbon mixture used to blend with heavy crude petroleum to reduce its viscosity to make it more fluid (“thinner”) and efficient to transport by pipeline. Diluent can come from refineries or natural gas production wells.



Generally, diluent is produced by refineries to produce gasoline, jet fuel, and other products. Referred to as diluent, the light hydrocarbons are produced at well sites from natural gas production. Diluent also is refined and transported both in oil and gas pipelines.

In essence, diluent is a light hydrocarbon mixture that Enbridge transports to blend with heavy crude oil or other oil products to dilute heavier crudes. The diluent is a light hydrocarbon mixture that can be refined from natural gas or become a byproduct of other processes such as gasoline. Other products we use are also produced from natural gas.

Exposure Health Effects are Similar to Other Petroleum Products

The toxicity and potential health effects from exposure to diluents are similar to other petroleum products. During normal operations, the liquid petroleum Enbridge transports is contained within the pipeline system and there are no hazards to those who live and work along the pipelines transporting diluent. As with gasoline and other petroleum products, diluent should be properly handled and contained.

There is No Risk of Ignition When Contained

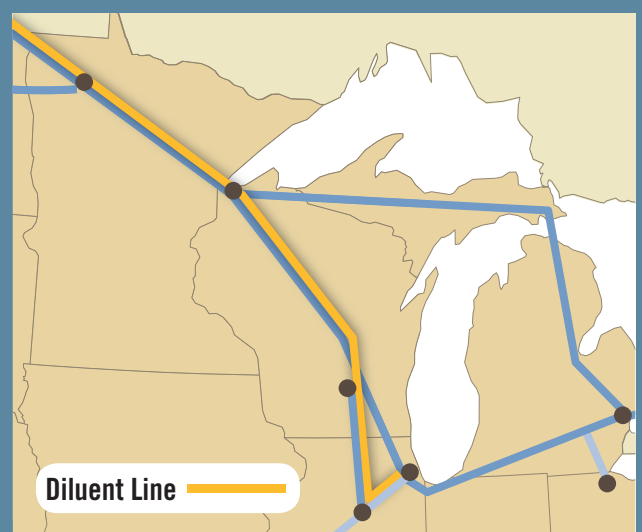
All hydrocarbons transported in Enbridge pipelines are flammable. Just like gasoline stored by many Americans in their garage, that is stored at the local gas station, or crude oil in large storage tanks, diluent requires two conditions to ignite: the presence of an ignition source, and being released in a narrowly-defined concentration with the surrounding air. When contained in a closed pipeline system, the petroleum hydrocarbons are mixed with little or no air, and therefore have no opportunity for ignition.

A new storage terminal for light hydrocarbons was constructed in 2010 to support the transportation of diluent from near Chicago north to western Canada.



As a common carrier, Enbridge may transport several different types of liquid petroleum from heavy to light crude oil, natural gas liquids, or different mixtures of diluent, a gasoline-like light hydrocarbon.

While Enbridge has been transporting light hydrocarbons and natural gas liquids for decades, in 2010 a new dedicated pipeline was constructed to transport a steady supply of diluent. This new pipeline runs generally parallel to existing Enbridge crude oil pipelines and transports diluent from the refining areas near Chicago north through several states and provinces to western Canada where heavy crude oil and bitumen is produced and needs diluting to be transported long distances through pipelines.





Enbridge installed a new 20-inch pipeline in 2010 dedicated to transporting only diluent from refinery markets near Chicago north to the Canadian oil sands region where it can be used to dilute heavy oil or bitumen that does not flow in its natural state.

This new pipeline was designed, built, and installed using modern specifications and quality materials. Like all Enbridge pipelines, it is monitored 24-hours a day and undergoes routine inspections and testing.

Hazards of Diluent if Released

Pipeline safety and reliable delivery are Enbridge's top priorities. We invest in quality design and construction, safe operations, routine maintenance, inspection and employee training all to prevent accidents. Hazardous levels of vapors are not released from closed pipeline systems nor within facilities during normal operations. In the unlikely event of a release, like all hydrocarbons, an immediate priority is to contain the release, detect vapors with special monitoring equipment and prevent breathing hazards to emergency responders. Enbridge workers and emergency personnel have the equipment and training to check levels of hydrocarbons in the air, use appropriate personal protective equipment, and work with local emergency services to keep the public safe. Enbridge also maintains a Public Awareness Program to educate nearby landowners, tenants, and local emergency responders about how to react in the unlikely event of a release.

Since diluent is composed of lighter end hydrocarbons, it tends to disperse and evaporate quickly if released into the atmosphere, similar to the natural gas liquids we transport.

The potential environmental effects of a release or leak of diluents are strongly influenced by the specifics of the release including volume, location, season, permeability of the soils, the connection to affected waterways, and cleanup actions taken. Emergency response preparedness, resources, environmental sensitivities, and emergency access locations have been specifically identified for Enbridge's diluent pipeline.

Preventing Corrosion

All of the products we transport, including diluent, must meet strict pipeline quality specifications posted with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to be transported in our pipelines. Specifications are exacting and limit the amount of water, temperature, sulfur, salt, sediment or other components received into the pipeline system. Keep in mind that petroleum is often used as a lubricant and not, in itself, corrosive.

Enbridge uses many tools to monitor, prevent, and if detected, mitigate common causes of corrosion including:

- Lab testing to ensure product quality.
- Employing pipeline operations and flow procedures to prevent water drop out or other corrosion conditions.
- Using tools inside the pipe clean impurities that can lead to corrosion where there is internal risk.
- Adding corrosion inhibitors.
- Using biocides that kill corrosion-inducing microorganisms.
- Applying cathodic protection and external coatings that protect against external corrosion.

All of our pipelines have built-in safety measures to promote the safe delivery of all of the products Enbridge transports. Our pipeline system is a safe and reliable way to transport vital energy resources.

Enbridge carries secure and reliable North American petroleum to refinery markets to be made into products used by Americans every day. Diluent makes it possible to transport growing supplies of heavy crude petroleum resources in western Canada.