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 Ann Wilson, CHRP, ICCRC R421415  
 (Formerly Citizenship Judge)  
 ann@wilsonimmigration.com

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### 'DANGEROUS' MOVE BY CLIMATE-CHANGE ACTIVISTS CUTS OFF PIPELINE FLOW FROM CANADA TO U.S.

Protesters simultaneously turn off valves for key pipelines to stop oilsands crude from moving. Climate-change activists on Tuesday disrupted the flow of millions of barrels of crude from Canada to the United States in rare, co-ordinated action that targeted several key pipelines simultaneously. Activists in four states were arrested after they cut padlocks and chains and entered remote flow stations to turn off valves in an attempt to stop crude moving through lines that carry as much as 15 per cent of daily U.S. oil consumption. The group posted videos online showing the early-morning raids. Protest group Climate Direct Action said the action was in support of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, which has protested the construction of a separate \$3.7-billion US pipeline carrying oil from North Dakota to the U.S. Gulf Coast over fears of potential damage to sacred land and water supplies. Officials, pipeline companies and experts say the protesters ran the danger

of causing environmental damage themselves by shutting down the lines. Unscheduled shutdowns can lead to a buildup of pressure and cause ruptures or leaks, they said.

The activists had studied for months how to execute the shutdowns safely, said Afrin Sopariwala, a spokeswoman for the group. "We are acting in response to this catastrophe we are facing," Sopariwala told Reuters, referring to global warming. Police confirmed four arrests, three in Washington state and one in Montana. Protesters were also arrested in Minnesota and North Dakota, the group said, after the action early on Tuesday.

The pipelines carry crude produced from Canada's oilsands to the United States. Environmentalists have fought for years to stem Canadian oilsands production, which some call tarsands, in favour of cleaner energy. Together, the lines affected can carry up to 2.8 million barrels of oil a day. "Tampering with energy infrastructure is a dangerous activity and it could cause harm to citizens and surrounding communities, which is unacceptable," said Canada's Energy Minister Jim Carr. His ministry was monitoring the

situation closely, he said, adding that safety and security of energy infrastructure was a top priority. Carl Weimer, executive director at the industry watchdog Pipeline Safety Trust, said the action was a "dangerous stunt." "Closing valves on major pipelines can have unexpected consequences endangering people and the environment. We do not support this type of action," he said. This is the latest in a series of actions by environmentalists and others in response to growing concern over the effects of fossil-fuel production on the environment and the potential effects on land and livelihoods of spills. On Monday, 27 people were arrested for protesting the North Dakota pipeline, including actress Shailene Woodley, who narrated her arrest on Facebook Live.

Enbridge Inc. said that it temporarily shut its Line 4 and 67 pipelines at its valve site in Leonard, Minn., but that there would be no effect on deliveries. The company said in a statement the activists "are inviting an environmental incident" and endangering public safety. Spectra Energy said trespassers had tampered with a valve on its Express Pipeline in Montana. It said it was

taking steps to restart the line after shutting it down as a precaution. The other pipelines the group claimed to have shut are TransCanada's Keystone pipeline and Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline. TransCanada said its Keystone pipeline in North Dakota was shut down temporarily as a precaution after protesters tried to disrupt it. Kinder Morgan confirmed trespassers broke into a location of one of its two Trans Mountain feeder lines in Washington state but it was not operating that part of the pipeline at the time and no product was released. The company said the line has since reopened and deliveries on Trans Mountain were not affected. All Tuesday's protesters and their support crews have been arrested, Sopariwala said. Protesters have previously shut lines down in more isolated incidents but it is rare, said Richard Kuprewicz, president of pipeline safety consultancy Accufacts Inc. "It's rare because ... you can be prosecuted and go to jail," he said. "Even if nothing happens, it can be dealt with very harshly." In January, Enbridge was forced to shut a crude pipeline in Ontario after a protester tampered with a valve station, while in December the company turned off



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another line in the province of Quebec for several hours after activists chained themselves to equipment. Protesters have been buoyed by the recent success of Native American groups and environmentalists in their campaign against construction of the 1,770-kilometre Dakota Access pipeline, a project spearheaded by Energy Transfer Partners that would carry oil from North Dakota's Bakken shale fields into Texas.

Construction of one section in North Dakota has been halted in response to the concerns of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and is under review.

**CLAM BEDS AT RISK AFTER SINKING TUG SPILLS FUEL NEAR BELLA BELLA, SAYS LOCAL FIRST NATION**

Tug boat and empty fuel barge run aground in environmentally sensitive Great Bear Rainforest First Nations on B.C.'s Central Coast are worried about environmental damage after a tug boat that left Alaska with nearly 200,000 litres of diesel fuel ran aground early Thursday morning near Bella Bella. The Nathan E. Stewart and the empty fuel barge DBL 55 crashed on Edge Reef, in Seaforth Channel near Athlone Island, just after 1 a.m. PT, Thursday. While the fuel barge was empty, the tug was leaking diesel. The tug and barge are owned by the U.S. company Kirby Offshore Marine. It said the Western Canada Marine Response Corporation has deployed vessels and crew from a base in Prince Rupert several hundred kilometres away. "A mobile skimming vessel, boom skiff, work

boat, and tug, along with a total of 2,500 feet of boom, have been deployed to the scene," Jim Guidry, Kirby's incident commander, said in a statement. "Owners and managers of the Nathan E. Stewart regret that this incident has occurred and are working to respond and mitigate the impact." Late in the day, Guidry issued another statement, saying the tug had nearly 200,000 litres of diesel fuel when it began its voyage and that resources to meet "a worst possible discharge" had been activated. "A priority for the response will be developing a plan to remove all diesel aboard the tug and to safely salvage the vessel," he said. Members of the Heiltsuk Nation responded to the scene, along with the Canadian Coast Guard, and are monitoring the environmental effects of the spill. They reported that three fuel tanks on the tug had been compromised and that the vessel had sunk. "Things don't sound promising from the chatter we are hearing on the radio," said Heiltsuk tribal councillor Jess Housty. The Coast Guard confirmed the tug sank but said it is still connected to the barge, which is stable. "The tug is submerged and leaking some diesel, which is expected to dissipate and break-up," said Coast Guard spokeswoman Michelle Imbeau in an email. The spill threatens dozens of species that are harvested in the area, including manila clam beds that provide income of up to \$150,000 per year for the community, according to the Heiltsuk. "It's a significant part of our local winter economy. That clam fishery was due to open in about three weeks," said Marilyn

Slett, chief councillor for the Heiltsuk Tribal Council. Slett said the nearby Gitga'at Nation is still unable to harvest seaweed and clams because of pollution from the sinking of the Queen of the North ferry a decade ago. Vessel had pilotage exemption. Seven people were onboard the tug at the time of the grounding. No injuries were reported, said Imbeau. Weather conditions provided for visibility of eight miles when the tug and barge ran aground, and the wind was blowing at nine knots, she said. The incident shows the need for improved spill response for the area, the Heiltsuk Nation said, adding it could take up to 24 hours for spill response ships to arrive from Prince Rupert. U.S. vessels that are under 10,000 gross tonnage, such as the Nathan E. Stewart, are often allowed to operate without a local pilot on the West Coast of Canada, if the crew meets a minimum standard of experience and licensing, said Kevin Obermeyer, CEO for the Pacific Pilotage Authority. "We've removed the waiver pending [the] result of [the] investigation," he said.

**TRILOGY ENERGY SAYS OIL EMULSION SPILL IN ALBERTA HAS COVERED 3 HECTARES**

Company president and other managers travel to remote scene to meet with clean-up team. Trilogy Energy says the pipeline leak it discovered late last week in north central Alberta has covered an area about three hectares in size with oil emulsion. That's about the size of four football fields. In an update posted to its website late Tuesday, the Calgary-based oil and

gas producer says it still doesn't know the volume of the spill into marshland about 15 kilometres from Fox Creek. The posting says that company president John Williams and other managers travelled to the remote scene Tuesday to meet with the cleanup team and assess the extent of the spill. It says the pipeline has been shut down and purged. Staff on site include environmental and wildlife specialists working with representatives of the Alberta Energy Regulator. The AER said last week that the oil emulsion that leaked is about 50 per cent water and 50 per cent oil.

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