

Why We Must Stop Pilgrim Pipelines: 23 Talking Points

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1. **Pilgrim's pipelines would cross 257 waterways.** These two proposed pipelines could cause catastrophic damage to **drinking water**. For example, when a pipeline carrying Bakken Shale crude oil ruptured in January 2015, it spilled 50,000 gallons into the Yellowstone River, contaminating drinking water with carcinogenic benzene.
2. **Gasoline pipelines**, such as the one Pilgrim proposes to build in the same trench as its proposed oil pipeline, are **dangerous**. Colonial spilled 336,000 gallons of gasoline in Shelby, Alabama in September 2016. Local first responders in New York could be **ordered to stay back due to deadly fumes**, as happened with Colonial's spill.
3. **Newer pipelines rupture and spill**; old pipelines are not the only problem. The West Virginia pipeline which ruptured in January 2015 (called the Atex pipeline), creating a fireball, was only 15 months old.
4. **Oil pipelines damage waterways**: Enbridge oil pipeline released **1.1 million gallons** when it broke in 2010, sickening and displacing families. The EPA says an **80-mile stretch** of the Kalamazoo River remains polluted.
5. **Pipeline breaks cause damage forever**. Read the *New York Times*: "[Amid Pipeline Debate, Two Costly Cleanups Forever Change Towns](#)." Small and mid-sized towns may not be able to recover.
6. Pilgrim's pipelines would **add to, not replace**, deadly oil "bomb trains." Oil trains entering Albany **would increase fivefold over their mid-2016 level**, because Pilgrim would require oil trains to service its pipeline.
7. **Pilgrim's pipelines would threaten indigenous land**. It would ram through Ramapough Luunape Nation's land, the nation after which the Ramapo River, Ramapo Mountains, town of Ramapo are all named. See: Split Rock Camp.
8. These pipelines would carry **climate-damaging** Bakken Shale crude and/or tar sands crude. [Bakken flaring](#) creates severe climate damage; that **flaring is so enormous** it can be seen from outer space.
9. Even without oil spills, the **horizontal drilling for this pipeline under the 257 Hudson Valley waterways would damage them**. In September 2014, [Sunoco pipeline drilling destroyed historic Little Mingo Creek](#) (video) in Pennsylvania, [killing aquatic life](#) for two miles downstream. The industry calls bentonite drilling mud "nontoxic" but its thick gray sludge coats creek bottoms like cement, **suffocating fish, amphibians, larvae, insects**.
The linked video shows cleanup crews trying to vacuum out the whole creek. It can't be done.
10. Bakken Shale oil has a **low flashpoint. It is extremely flammable** and when it blows, it has created [300-foot-tall fireballs with evacuation zones of five miles](#). (linked: video from Bakken shale oil train explosion, Casselton 2014.)
11. **Pipelines explode**. Oil pipeline explosions happen frequently and can **be lethal and devastating**. [This explosion in 2010 killed 29 people](#) in Puebla and destroyed a 5-kilometer area. Here is a short list of [pipeline explosions](#).
12. According to updated data from PHMSA, the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, **the total number of pipeline incidents** (explosions, fires, leaks and spills) over ten years **averaged 631 per year (2004-2013). That is 1.7 per day**.
13. To have any chance of averting catastrophic climate change, we must **keep 4/5ths of all the current known oil, coal and gas reserves in the ground**, rather than extracting and burning it, according to broad scientific consensus. Read: [Bill McKibben: Global Warming's Terrifying New Math](#) (*Rolling Stone*).
14. Bakken oil is extracted using fracking: high-volume hydraulic fracturing with horizontal drilling, harming the health, water, air, animals and people of North Dakota. For examples of **health harms due to Bakken Shale oil fracking** see [Fracking Our Food Supply](#) --Elizabeth Royte, *The Nation*.

15. **First responders' lives would be put at risk.** Pilgrim is proposed as **two pipelines, which means double the risk** as super-flammable gasoline, jet fuel and other products would flow north while volatile oil flows south.

16. Here is an example of what can happen when a **gasoline pipeline ruptures**: “An Olympic gasoline pipeline ruptured near Bellingham, Washington, resulting in 3 deaths, a fly fisherman and two 10 year old boys (1999). The cause was a series of errors and malfunctions in relief systems and process control computer systems... resulting in 277,000 gallons of gasoline spilled to Whatcom Creek. The fire burned for five days.^{[26][27]}” (Wikipedia)

17. Thousands of gallons of gasoline can rush out even from a **pinhole-sized leak in a half-inch-wide** stainless steel tube that's part of a gasoline pipeline system, as happened here:

2004 (May 24) A pinhole-sized leak caused by wear unleashed thousands of gallons of gasoline that fueled the BP / Olympic pipeline fire and explosion... The blaze sent three firefighters to the hospital, and a mile-square area... was cordoned off... A metal electrical conduit had rubbed against the stainless steel sampling tube to open the pinhole leak.^[29]

18. “Lack of inspection and monitoring” is cited as a cause in most pipeline ruptures and pipeline accidents of all kinds. There are only **137 inspectors for 2.5 million miles of pipeline** in the U.S.

19. Pilgrim Pipeline LLC has already sent **threatening and intimidating** letters to homeowners claiming that Pilgrim has the right to take the homeowners' land by eminent domain if the homeowners don't cooperate. **This is not true at this time.** Pilgrim is already behaving in a bullying manner and cannot be trusted.

20. **Resistance is growing. Over 72 municipalities** in New Jersey and New York have passed Resolutions and Ordinances Opposing Pilgrim Pipelines! **Please view complete list of Resolutions: stoppilgrimpipeline.com.** Public forums, letters to the editor, petitions, demonstrations, call-ins are increasing. The alliance is broadening.

21. Pilgrim Pipeline is **just a proposal**, backed by Koch Industries former executives with Koch Brothers manners. It is not inevitable! Pilgrim has not even applied for the necessary permits, intimidated by the broad-spectrum opposition. **Pilgrim Pipeline is stoppable, with a high level of citizen engagement and commitment to action.**

22. **Pipelines harm wildlife.** In the California spill on Refugio Beach, sea lions have died after being coated by oil. But it's not just spills that kill. **Pipelines, compressor stations, fracking and flaring** all damage habitat and pollute air and water, contributing, cumulatively, to **displacing and killing wild animals: mammals, fish and birds.**

23. *Do we want to allow a private corporation, which may use one or both Pilgrim pipelines to export crude oil, to harm our climate and public health while risking our waterways, air, land, and safety, for the next 50 years?*

Talking Points by Protecting Our Waters for CAPPNY: Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipelines–New York.

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Websites: stoppilgrimpipeline.com + citizensforlocalpower.com + protectingourwaters.com + riverkeeper.org

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