

Oversight Hearing: "Pipeline Safety: A Progress Report Since the Enactment of 'The Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002'"

Transcript Excerpts: Rep. Edward J. Markey & D.O.T | p. 3 - 4

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1295 Mr. MARKEY. Have they made a request for a specific time
1296 extension?

1297 Ms. GERARD. They have made more than one request.

1298 Mr. MARKEY. What is that? The most recent time extension
1299 request.

1300 Ms. GERARD. I believe the most recent request is for
1301 about a 4- to 6-week extension to be able to complete their
1302 diagnostics on this sludge material.

1303 Mr. MARKEY. Now it has also been reported that BP
1304 believes that there could be up to 2,500 cubic yards of oil
1305 sludge in key pipelines and that sending a scraper pig
1306 through those lines could, therefore, shut them down. Is that
1307 true?

1308 Ms. GERARD. It is possible that they could need to be
1309 shut down.

1310 Mr. MARKEY. If the BP lines up in Trudeau Bay were to be
1311 shut down due to the sludge, how many barrels per day of oil
1312 would be removed from the world's oil markets?

1313 Ms. GERARD. I would have to get back to you on the

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(Pg. 4) 1314 record for that number.

1315 Mr. MARKEY. Ms. Gerard, how do you think BP could have
1316 allowed their pipelines up on the North Slope to deteriorate
1317 to this point?

1318 Ms. GERARD. Well, BP has employed a great number of
1319 different corrosion prevention methodologies. They apparently
1320 did not use this basic technique of running scraper pigs to
1321 remove the sludge, which is a hazard to the pipeline and--

1322 Mr. MARKEY. So what you are saying is it is just basic
1323 incompetence on their part?

1324 Ms. GERARD. We don't have any--

1325 Mr. MARKEY. Not using state-of-the-art technology?

1326 Ms. GERARD. We have no single logical reason why they
1327 did not use the scraper pigs.