



NEW BRUNSWICK
ENERGY & UTILITIES BOARD
COMMISSION DE L'ÉNERGIE ET DES SERVICES PUBLICS
NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

Media release

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The New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board's Pipeline Safety staff has begun its investigation into the butane leak from a pipeline on Bayside Drive in Saint John.

Preliminary results suggest that the leak was the result of a crack related to the recent extreme cold weather.

Pipelines are designed to allow for unconstrained expansion and contraction with temperature changes. However, in during the recent cold weather, ice buildup in one area appears to have constrained the pipe's movement. The result was a small crack in the pipe, roughly 5 cm long.

The pipeline is licenced to Irving Oil Terminals and Pipelines G.P. The leak was discovered by the company on Monday morning.

Following the incident engineers from the Board contacted the company and began an investigation. The Board is responsible for regulating pipelines in the province that carry hazardous materials.

The Board has directed the company to demonstrate that the pipeline can be operated safely before permission will be granted to resume operation. This will include the installation of an enhanced leak detection and monitoring system.

In addition the Board has instructed the company to raise a section of the pipeline so it is not susceptible to constraints due to icy conditions.

Repairs on the pipeline have begun and the Board's Pipeline Safety staff will be onsite during repairs to inspect the work as it progresses.

The work could be complete within a few days.

The investigation into the incident will continue to determine if any further changes to the company's license to operate the pipe are required.

For more information, please contact

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