

National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials

Washington, DC 20594



September 12, 2023

Investigator-in-Charge's Accident Summary

NTSB Accident #: PLD22FR002

Marathon Pipe Line, LLC Hazardous Liquids Pipeline Release

March 11, 2022, Edwardsville, Illinois

On March 11, 2022, at about 8:15 a.m. local time, a 22-inch diameter hazardous liquids pipeline operated by Marathon Pipe Line, LLC (Marathon), ruptured in Edwardsville, Illinois. The rupture resulted in a release of about 3,500 barrels of crude oil, some of which entered Cahokia Creek, a tributary of the Mississippi River (Figure 1). No injuries occurred, and the crude oil did not ignite.

At the time of the accident, the pipeline was operating at a pressure of about 479 pounds per square inch gauge (psig), below the maximum operating pressure of 881 psig. The initial indication of a release occurred at 8:15 a.m., when Marathon's pipeline operations center staff received an audible and visible rate-of-change alarm. Marathon's controllers isolated the pipeline by closing remotely controlled valves within eight minutes.

Post-accident examinations determined that the fracture features of the ruptured girth weld were consistent with overstress fracturing. The rupture occurred in an area with known slope stability issues that Marathon had attempted to stabilize since 2014.



Figure 1. Incident location. Yellow star indicates approximate pipeline breach location. March 13, 2022 at 8:09 a.m. Courtesy of Marathon.