

Pipeline has history of incidents since it was constructed

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The Buckeye Pipeline traversing Staten Island has had several accidents and near-accidents since it was first built in 1965. But none caused quite the furor that yesterday's mishap wrought.

Here's a brief history:

● March 3, 1967. Ten fire companies rush to various points along the pipeline scene after monitoring equipment in Linden reported a sudden drop in pressure and a possible gas leak.

The fault, however, was in a monitoring switch, and not in the pipeline itself. False alarm.

● March 7, 1968. Gas crews and fire companies, including six fire companies from Manhattan, rush to the Island when the odor of gas is detected along the pipeline route on Lightner Avenue in Todt Hill. Traffic is detoured on Slosson Avenue for six hours while officials attempt to find the odor source.

Finally, a city engineer opens a blocked sewer nearby and the odor diminishes when backed-up water in a manhole drops away. Another false alarm.

● May 14, 1976. Vanbro Con-

struction Co. crews installing underground conduits for Con Edison electrical lines on Victory Boulevard near the entrance to Willowbrook Park accidentally strike the pipeline, causing about 30 gallons of kerosene to leak into the construction trench before firemen shut down a nearby valve.

Buckeye later sues both Con Ed and Vanbro for \$835,000 in damages, saying 20 feet of pipeline must be replaced. On Feb. 13, 1980, a Brooklyn Federal Court jury awards Buckeye \$335,000 in damages, but also finds Buckeye 10 percent liable in the mishap.

● Sept. 18, 1979. More than 42,000 gallons of jet fuel leaks from the pipeline near Paulding and Graham avenues in Bulls Head when thieves attempt to tap into the pipeline and steal the fuel. A similar attempt had been made on the line in New Jersey several weeks earlier, it is later revealed.

The Fire Department later serves Buckeye with a 10-item violation order and orders an inquiry as to why the pipeline's electric monitoring equipment did not warn of the spill. The leak was actually discovered by a man walking his dog.

In December, Mayor Edward I. Koch orders Buckeye to "review and upgrade" its monitoring procedures, and make more frequent foot patrols of the line.

● Sept. 26, 1983. Approximately 400 gallons of gasoline leaks from the pipeline near the intersection of St. John's and Tompkins avenues in Rosebank, apparently when a damaged valve ruptures. Firefighters initially fear that the gas may have seeped into sanitary sewers and backed up into residents' homes. But their fears prove unfounded and no one is evacuated.



S.I. Advance Photo by Steve Zaffarano

Firefighters from Rescue Co. 4 of Queens check homes along Signs Road.