

Can Kinder Morgan Build a Safe Gas Pipeline through Amherst?

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Forward

The summary below presents a frightening snapshot of a company whose business of building and operating fuel pipelines is one that puts at risk the lives of thousands of men, women, and children every day.

If you planned to hire a company to build a house for you, would you want one with Kinder Morgan's record of fraud, deceit, and accidents?

What is Kinder Morgan?

Headquartered in Houston, Texas, Kinder Morgan is an energy transport company that describes itself as operating "like a giant toll road" for energy products. Kinder Morgan was formed in 1997 when a pair of former high-level Enron executives, Richard Kinder and William Morgan, bought pipelines and other assets from Enron. The firm's core business is moving fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas from mines and wellheads to utilities, refineries, and manufacturers. Kinder Morgan aims to dramatically expand its pipeline operations. The company's biggest recent play is a \$21.1 billion acquisition of the El Paso Corporation that the *New York Times* reports will make Kinder Morgan the nation's biggest empire of oil and gas pipelines.³

Kinder Morgan Companies

Key to Abbreviations:

- GG Gas Gathering
- GT Gas Transmission
- HL Hazardous Liquids

This list may not be up to date due to turnover in holdings:

- Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, SFPP (Santa Fe Pacific Pipelines), Mission Valley, California
- Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P., Houston, Texas
- Cypress Gas Pipeline (HL), North System, Heartland Partnership, and Central Basin Pipeline (1997)
- Plantation Pipeline (2000)(HL)
- Calnev Pipeline (2001) (HL)
- Central Florida Pipeline (2001)(HL)
- Tejas Gas LLP (2002) (GT,GG)
- Midcontinent Express Pipeline (KM owned 50% by 2007) (GT)
- Fayetteville Express Pipeline LLC (co-owned with Energy Transfer Partners 2008) (GT)
- Rockies Express Pipeline (REX) purchased 2009 (GT). km owned it and Trailblazer Pipeline until November 2012; sold Trailblazer & 50% of REX to Tallgrass Energy.
- Kinder Morgan Altamont LLC (GG)

- Kinder Morgan Cochin LLC (HL)
- Kinder Morgan CO
2 Company, Houston, Texas (HL)
- Kinder Morgan Management, LLC, Houston, Texas
- Kinder Morgan, Inc., Houston, Texas
- Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America (co-owned with Myria Holdings by 2007) (GT)
- Kinder Morgan Terminals, Houston, Texas (HL)
- Kinder Morgan Power Company, [Lakewood, Colorado](#)
- Kinder Morgan Louisiana Pipeline LLC (KMLP), [Crowley, Louisiana](#) (GT)
- Kinder Morgan North Texas Pipeline (GT)
- Kinder Morgan Wink Pipeline (HL)
- El Paso Corporation was purchased (2012) with subsidiaries:
- Tennessee Gas Pipeline (GT) (2012)
- Southern Natural Gas Co (GT) (2012)
- Colorado Interstate Gas Co (HL & GT) (2012)
- Ruby Pipeline (2012)
- Wyoming Interstate Co (2012)
- El Paso Natural Gas Co (GT) (2012)
- Mojave Pipeline Co (GT) (2012)
- Copano Energy (purchased 2013)
- Florida Gas Transmission Company, LLC (50% by 2014) (GT)

Kinder Morgan Practices

Here are some examples of KM practices:

Bribery and pollution in Portland

Kinder Morgan's operations in Portland, Oregon, have been home to pollution, law-breaking, and even bribery. In one incident, Kinder Morgan illegally dumped contaminated potassium chloride into the Pacific Ocean rather than pay landfill charges to dispose of it properly. In 2003, according to dockworkers, company officials bribed a ship captain \$1,100 to haul 159 tons of the fertilizer component out to sea and dump it.³⁴ Nearly five years later, Kinder Morgan finally pled guilty to violating the Ocean Dumping Act and settled with the US Attorney's Office, agreeing to pay \$240,000.³⁵

Fraud, scams, and thefts

The bribery case in Oregon is part of a pattern of illegal behavior. A fraud investigation by the FBI determined that between 1997 and 2001 Kinder Morgan systematically scammed some of its customers, including the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), a publicly-owned provider of electricity in the mid-South.³⁸

Pipelines result in deaths, felonies, and environmental disasters

Kinder Morgan's pipeline operations in the Northwest have had serious problems. In 2007, a Kinder Morgan pipeline ruptured in Burnaby, British Columbia, forcing 50 families to evacuate their homes as oil rained down on a residential neighborhood.⁴³

The most tragic Kinder Morgan mishap occurred in November 2004 when an excavator ruptured a high-pressure oil pipeline in the town of Walnut Creek, California. A welding torch then ignited the fuel, and five workers were killed as the pipeline erupted in a fiery explosion. A Kinder Morgan subsidiary was subsequently convicted of six felony counts related to the Walnut Creek explosion and ordered to pay \$15 million in fines.⁴⁷

Kinder Morgan has had numerous other problems in California. In April 2004, a long stretch of corroded pipeline ruptured, spilling more than 123,000 gallons of diesel fuel into the Suisun Marsh, a sensitive saltwater wetland on San Francisco Bay.⁴⁸ Local environmental groups allege that the company waited more than a day before notifying authorities that the spill had occurred.⁴⁹ Kinder Morgan pled guilty on four counts related to the Suisun Marsh spill and an unrelated small spill in Los Angeles Harbor.⁵⁰ In November 2004, an oil pipeline owned by a Kinder Morgan subsidiary burst in the Mojave Desert, sending a jet of fuel 80 feet into the air. The break closed the nearby AA Kinder Morgan subsidiary was subsequently convicted of six felony counts related to the Walnut Creek explosion and ordered to pay \$15 million in fines.⁴⁷ Kinder Morgan has had numerous other problems in California. In April 2004, a long stretch of corroded pipeline ruptured, spilling more than 123,000 gallons of diesel fuel into the Suisun Marsh, a sensitive saltwater wetland on San Francisco Bay.⁴⁸ Local environmental groups allege that the company waited more than a day before notifying authorities that the spill had occurred.⁴⁹ Kinder Morgan pled guilty on four counts related to the Suisun Marsh spill and an unrelated small spill in Los Angeles Harbor.⁵⁰

Labor violations and unsafe working conditions

Kinder Morgan has numerous labor and workplace safety violations to its name. In February 2011, for example, the US Department of Labor sued Kinder Morgan, arguing that the firm had been underpaying nearly 4,600 workers for overtime for at least two years.⁵⁷ The company agreed to settle the suit, paying out \$830,000 in back pay.⁵⁸

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