In 2008, the injury frequency for employees working on liquid pipelines showed a slight increase to 0.53 injuries for every 100 full-time workers, compared to 1.9 injuries per 100 full-time workers in 2007, constituting a 47 per cent reduction from the 2007 level. The injury frequency for employees working on natural gas pipelines remained steady at 0.30 injuries per 100 employees. However, this year’s data does not account for the removal of incidents associated with equipment that was reported in 2007.

The overall injury frequency rate on liquid pipelines declined from 0.42 injuries per 100 employees in 2006 to 0.40 injuries per 100 employees in 2007. The injury frequency rate on natural gas pipelines was 0.29 injuries per 100 employees in 2007, which was a slight increase from 0.27 injuries per 100 employees in 2006.

In 2008, there were 19 reported releases of lubricants or equipment fluids during the construction, or maintenance of regulated pipelines. Of these releases, approximately 86 per cent were documented liquid leaks, while just under 14 per cent were documented air emissions.

In 2008, there were a total of 25 operational gas releases, 19 of which were liquid releases. Of these liquid releases, 17 were equipment spills and 2 were pipe body releases. The remaining 6 gas releases were classified as operational gas releases.

The NEB increased its safety inspections of field activities, including pipeline construction, from 25 in 2007 to 42 safety inspections in 2008. The purpose of these inspections is to monitor and evaluate pipeline construction and field activities for compliance with the NEB’s rules, regulations, and standards.

The NEB’s inspections are based on a risk-based approach to assess the safety and environmental performance of NEB-regulated pipelines. These inspections also assess the safety systems in place, such as leak detection, emergency response, and proactive management of events.

The NEB’s goal is to reduce the number of incidents and injuries to as low a level as possible. In order to achieve this goal, the NEB has implemented a risk-based approach to determine the degree of regulatory attention required for each regulated pipeline. This approach takes into account the level of risk and potential impact of an incident, as well as the safety performance of the regulated company.

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