

Risk and Transportation of Crude Oil in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region

Michèle Leduc-Lapierre
Senior Program Specialist



RAETCS
December 14, 2016

The Great Lakes Commission

- Interstate compact agency
- Established in 1955 (Great Lakes Basin Compact)
 - Members: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin
- Ontario and Québec joined in 1999 as associate members
- Commissioners include representative from all state and province members
- Observers: Federal agencies, NGOs, bi-national organizations, tribal governments



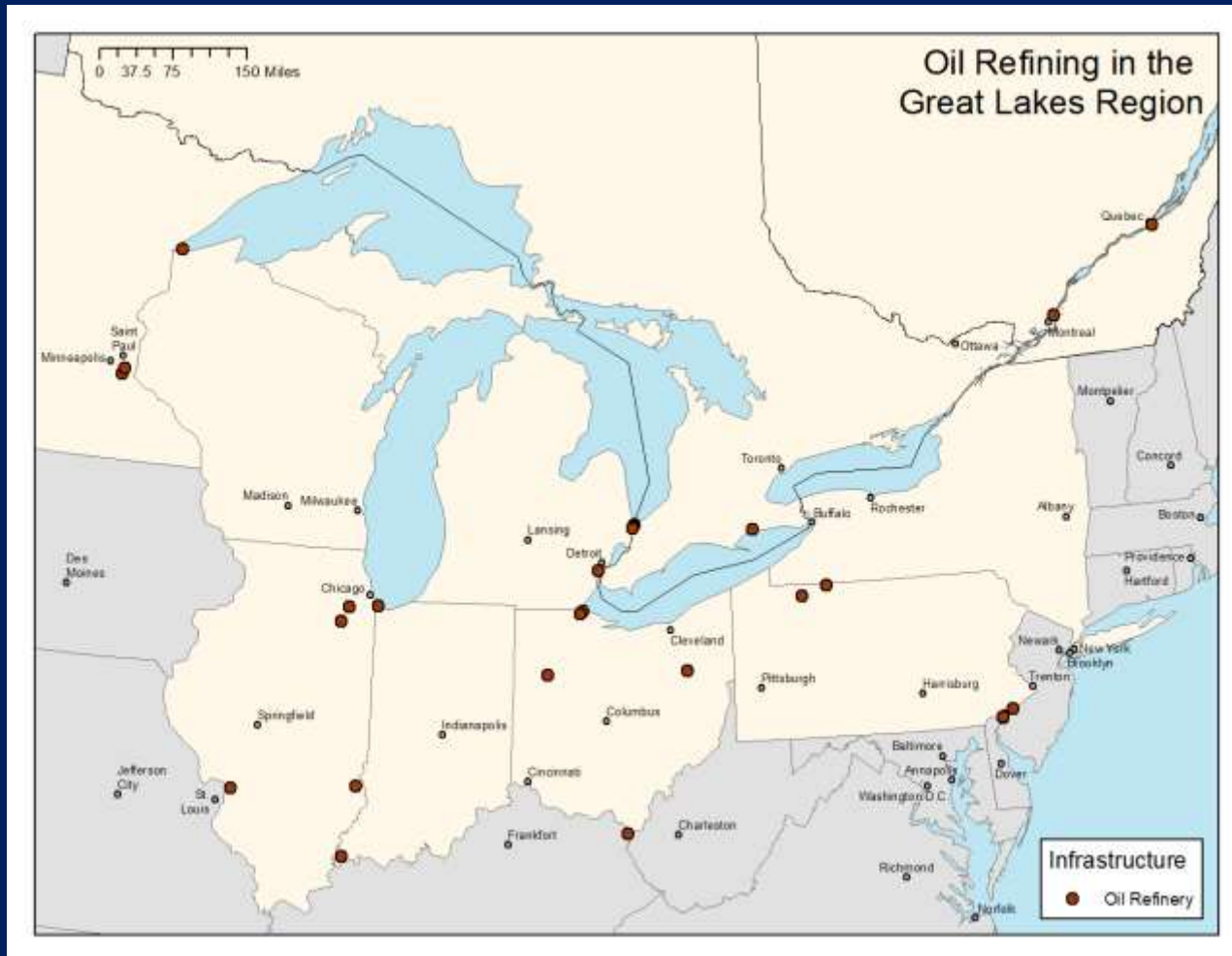
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River



Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River



Oil refining in the basin



How oil moves to and through the region



Major incidents in the region





Understanding risk

➤ Probabilities of a spill

➤ Over 300 billion gallons of oil transported annually in Canada and the U.S.

➤ Between January 1, 2013 and Nov 20, 2016: 58 spills of more than 1,000 gallons, over 8 million gallons total

➤ Impacts of a spill influenced by:

- Size
- Mode of transportation
- Type of oil
- Location
- Response capacities
- Timing



Understanding risk

- Absolute vs. relative risk
- Differing risk considerations, perspectives and interests among affected stakeholders
- Approaches and actions to assess and evaluate risk will vary based on perspectives and concerns



Understanding risk

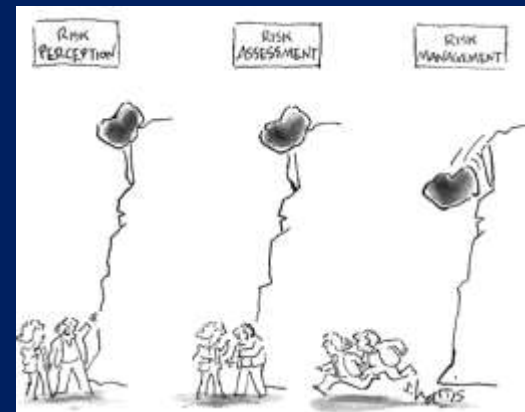
➤ We have to look at the “big picture” and consider every piece of the puzzle

➤ How can we do this?

➤ Establish a group where all stakeholders are represented

➤ Try to reach an agreement on a definition of risk

➤ Work as a group to identify the best strategy to minimize risk, taking into consideration all perspectives



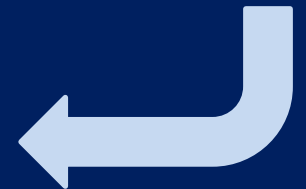
Final thoughts

Oil industry is an important economic driver



Oil moved via different modes

Risk and potential impacts vary with each mode



Different perspectives and approaches

We have to look at the “big picture”





Michèle Leduc-Lapierre
michelel@glc.org

734-971-9135 www.glc.org