TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION 1-1
1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND NEED 1-1
1.2 LAND REQUIREMENTS 1-5
1.2.1 Additional Temporary Workspaces 1-7
1.2.2 Pipe/Material Storage Yards and Contractor Yards 1-7
1.2.3 Access Roads 1-8
1.2.4 Aboveground Facilities 1-9
1.3 TYPICAL CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE 1-10
1.4 ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION AND RESTORATION 1-13
2.0 ROUTE SELECTION AND ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS 2-1
2.1 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE 2-1
2.2 SYSTEM ALTERNATIVES 2-2
2.2.1 Other Pipeline Systems 2-2
2.2.2 Trucking 2-3
2.2.3 Rail 2-5
2.3 ROUTE ALTERNATIVES 2-6
2.3.1 Initial Route Selection Process 2-7
2.3.2 Refined Route Selection Process 2-8
2.3.3 Comparison of Route Alternatives 2-8
3.0 SOCIOECONOMICS 3-1
3.1 EXISTING SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS 3-1
3.2 GENERAL CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION IMPACTS AND MITIGATION 3-5
3.2.1 Construction Schedule and Workforce 3-5
3.2.2 Housing 3-6
3.2.3 Transportation 3-6
3.2.4 Loss of Agricultural and Timber Production 3-8
3.2.5 Tax Revenues 3-8
4.0 LAND USE 4-1
4.1 EXISTING LAND USE 4-1
4.2 LAND USE AFFECTED BY PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION 4-1
4.2.1 Ownership Status of Lands Crossed by the Pipeline 4-6
4.2.2 Areas with Comprehensive Land Use Plans 4-6
4.3 GENERAL CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION IMPACTS AND MITIGATION 4-6
4.3.1 Forest Land 4-6
4.3.2 Agricultural Land 4-7
4.3.3 Wetland/Open Water 4-8
4.3.4 Open Land 4-8
4.3.5 Developed Land 4-9
4.3.6 Transportation Infrastructure 4-10
5.0 GEOLOGY 5-1
5.1 TERRAIN AND GEOLOGY 5-1
5.1.1 Mineral Resources 5-5

5.1.2 Paleontology 5-8
5.2 GENERAL CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION IMPACTS AND MITIGATION 5-8
6.0 SOILS 6-1
6.1 GENERAL SOIL COMPOSITION 6-1
6.2 IDENTIFICATION OF SOIL CONDITIONS 6-2
6.2.1 Background and Methodology 6-2
6.2.2 Soil Characteristics and Assessments 6-2
6.3 GENERAL CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION IMPACTS AND MITIGATION 6-4
6.3.1 Prime Farmland and Topsoil Segregation 6-4
6.3.2 Soil Compaction and Rutting 6-6
6.3.3 Erosion by Wind and Water 6-6
6.3.4 Droughty Soils 6-7
6.3.5 Stony/Rocky Soils and Shallow Bedrock Soils 6-7
7.0 VEGETATION, WILDLIFE, AND FISHERIES 7-1
7.1 VEGETATION 7-1
7.1.1 Existing Vegetation Resources 7-1
7.1.2 Ecological Classifications 7-1
7.1.3 Sensitive Plant Communities 7-3
7.1.4 General Construction and Operation Impacts and Mitigation 7-5
7.2 WILDLIFE 7-6
7.2.1 Existing Wildlife Resources 7-6
7.2.2 Special Wildlife Areas 7-7
7.2.3 General Construction and Operation Impacts and Mitigation 7-10
7.3 FISHERIES 7-11
7.3.1 Existing Fisheries Resources 7-11
7.3.2 General Construction and Operation Impacts and Mitigation 7-12
7.4 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES 7-13
7.4.1 General Construction and Operation Impacts and Mitigation 7-15
8.0 GROUNDWATER RESOURCES 8-1
8.1 AQUIFERS 8-1
8.1.1 Glacial Aquifers 8-1
8.1.2 Cretaceous Aquifer 8-2
8.1.3 Precambrian Aquifers 8-2
8.2 EXISTING GROUNDWATER RESOURCES 8-2
8.2.1 Public Water Supply Wells 8-2
8.2.2 Federal and State Designated Aquifers 8-2
8.2.3 Water Supply Wells 8-3
8.3 CONTAMINATED GROUNDWATER 8-4
8.4 GENERAL CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION IMPACTS AND MITIGATION 8-6
8.4.1 Blasting 8-6
8.4.2 Releases 8-6
9.0 SURFACE WATER RESOURCES 9-1
9.1 MAJOR BASINS AND WATERSHEDS 9-1
9.2 WATERBODY CROSSINGS 9-6
9.2.1 Water Quality 9-7

9.2.2 Public Water Watercourses 9-10
9.2.3 Special Designated Waterbodies 9-12
9.2.4 Waterbody Construction Methods 9-14
9.2.5 General Construction and Operation Impacts and Mitigation 9-19
9.2.6 Hydrostatic Testing 9-20
9.3 WETLAND CROSSINGS 9-21
9.3.1 Existing Wetland Resources 9-21
9.3.2 Public Water Wetlands 9-24
9.3.3 Wetland Construction Methods 9-25
9.3.4 General Construction and Operation Impacts and Mitigation 9-26
10.0 CULTURAL RESOURCES 10-1
10.1 PREVIOUSLY RECORDED CULTURAL RESOURCES 10-1
10.2 CULTURAL RESOURCES PHASE I RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY AND GIS PREDICTIVE MODEL 10-3
10.3 CULTURAL RESOURCES PHASE II EVALUATION STUDIES 10-4
10.4 GENERAL CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION IMPACTS AND MITIGATION 10-5
11.0 FEDERAL, STATE, AND COUNTY RECREATIONAL AREAS 11-1
11.1 EXISTING DESIGNATED RECREATIONAL AREAS 11-1
11.1.1 Federally Designated Recreation Areas and Trails 11-1
11.1.2 State-Designated Recreation Areas 11-1
11.1.3 County-Designated Recreation Areas 11-3
11.1.4 Designated Scenic Byways 11-3
11.1.5 Other Public Lands 11-4
11.2 GENERAL CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION IMPACTS AND MITIGATION 11-4
12.0 AIR QUALITY 12-1
12.1 EXISTING AIR QUALITY 12-1
12.2 APPLICABLE AIR QUALITY RULES 12-1
12.3 GENERAL CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION IMPACTS AND MITIGATION 12-1
13.0 REFERENCES 13-1

TABLES

Table 1.1-1 Location and Length of the Sandpiper Pipeline Project in Minnesota 1-5
Table 1.2-1 Land Requirements for the Sandpiper Pipeline Project 1-6
Table 1.2.1-1 Typical Dimensions of Additional Temporary Workspaces for the Sandpiper Pipeline Project 1-7
Table 1.2.2-1 Pipe Yards and Rail Sidings Used for the Sandpiper Pipeline Project 1-8
Table 1.2.3-1 Access Roads Used by the Sandpiper Pipeline Project 1-9
Table 1.2.4-1 Proposed Aboveground Facilities Associated with the Sandpiper Pipeline Project 1-10
Table 2.2.2-1 Total Daily Truck Requirements 2-4
Table 2.2.3-1 Total Daily Rail Requirements 2-6
Table 2.3.3-1 Environmental Features Comparison – Northern Route Alternative 2-12
Table 2.3.3-2 Environmental Features Comparison – Aitkin County Powerline Route Alternative 2-15

Table 2.3.3-3 Environmental Features Comparison – Allete Powerline Route Alternative.....2-18
Table 2.3.3-4 Environmental Features Comparison – Aitkin County Soo Line Route Alternative 2-21
Table 2.3.3-5 Environmental Features Comparison – Carlton County Route Alternative 2-24
Table 3.1-1 Existing Socioeconomic Conditions in the Sandpiper Pipeline Project Area.....3-3
Table 3.1-2 Municipalities within One Mile of the Sandpiper Pipeline Project.....3-5
Table 4.2-1 Land Uses Affected by Construction of the Sandpiper Pipeline Project.....4-4
Table 4.2-2 Land Uses Affected by Operation of the Sandpiper Pipeline Project.....4-5
Table 4.2.1-1 Ownership of Lands Crossed by the Sandpiper Pipeline Project.....4-6
Table 4.3.5-1 Residences Within 50 and 500 Feet of the Sandpiper Pipeline Project.....4-9
Table 4.3.6-1 Number of Roads Crossed by the Sandpiper Pipeline Project.....4-10
Table 4.3.6-2 Railroads Crossed by the Sandpiper Pipeline Project 4-11
Table 5.1-1 Elevation Along the Sandpiper Pipeline Project.....5-2
Table 5.1.1-1 Mineral Resources within 1,500 Feet of the Sandpiper Pipeline Project.....5-5
Table 5.1.1-2 Lands Leased for Mineral Exploration Crossed by the Sandpiper Pipeline Project 5-7
Table 6.2.2-1 Soil Characteristics in the Sandpiper Pipeline Project Area.....6-3
Table 6.2.2-2 Topsoil Depths and Slope Class in the Sandpiper Pipeline Project Area 6-3
Table 6.2.2-3 Topsoil Depths on Prime Farmland in the Sandpiper Pipeline Project Area 6-4
Table 7.1.2-1 Ecological Sections and Subsections of the Laurentian Mixed Forest Province in the Sandpiper Pipeline Project Area 7-2
Table 7.1.3-1 Native Plant Communities Identified in the Sandpiper Pipeline Project Area.....7-3
Table 7.3.1-1 Game Fish Species in the Sandpiper Pipeline Project Area 7-11
Table 7.3.1-2 Trout Stream Locations along the Sandpiper Pipeline Project Area 7-12
Table 7.4.1-1 Element Occurrences in Minnesota's Natural Heritage Information System for Threatened and Endangered Species 7-14
Table 8.2.3-1 Wells/Boreholes Identified Within 200 Feet of the Sandpiper Pipeline Project ...8-3
Table 8.3-1 Contaminated Sites within 0.5 Mile of the Sandpiper Pipeline Project.....8-4
Table 9.1-1 Watersheds Crossed by the Sandpiper Pipeline Project Route.....9-3
Table 9.2-1 Summary of Waterbodies Crossed by the Sandpiper Pipeline Project 9-6
Table 9.2.1-1 Impaired Streams Crossed by the Sandpiper Pipeline Project 9-8
Table 9.2.2-1 MNDNR Public Water Watercourses Crossed by the Sandpiper Pipeline Project 9-10
Table 9.2.4-1 Proposed Horizontal Directional Drill Locations – Waterbodies.....9-18
Table 9.3.1-1 Wetlands Crossed by the Sandpiper Pipeline Project.....9-22
Table 9.3.1-2 Summary of Wetland Types Affected by Construction of the Sandpiper Pipeline Project.....9-22
Table 9.3.2-1 MNDNR Public Water Wetlands and Basins Crossed by the Sandpiper Pipeline Project.....9-24
Table 10.1-1 Cultural Resources Reports of Pipeline Right-of-Way Surveys Key to the Sandpiper Project 10-2
Table 11.1.2-1 State Forests Crossed by the Sandpiper Pipeline Project 11-2

FIGURES

Figure 1.1-1 General Project Location Map 1-4
Figure 1.3-1 Typical Pipeline Construction Sequence 1-12
Figure 2.3.2-1 Overview of Route Alternatives 2-9
Figure 2.3.3-1 Northern Route Alternative 2-13
Figure 2.3.3-2 Aitkin County Powerline Route Alternative 2-16
Figure 2.3.3-3 Allete Powerline Route Alternative 2-19
Figure 2.3.3-4 Aitkin County Soo Line Route Alternative 2-22
Figure 2.3.3-5 Carlton County Route Alternative 2-25
Figure 5.1-1 Bedrock Geology 5-3
Figure 5.1-2 Quaternary Geology 5-4
Figure 7.2.2-1 MNDNR Wildlife Management Areas 7-9
Figure 9.1-1 Watersheds and Basins in the Project Area 9-5

APPENDICES

Appendix B Roads Crossed by the Sandpiper Pipeline Project Route
Appendix E Waterbodies Crossed by the Sandpiper Pipeline Project Route
Appendix G Project Maps
G.1 Minnesota Project Overview Map
G.3 Preliminary Clearbrook, Minnesota and Pine River, Minnesota Facility Drawings
G.4 County Maps (Minnesota)
G.5 Aerial and Topographic Route Maps (Minnesota)