

Questions and Answers

Line 3 Pipeline Replacement Project
January 23, 2017



Q: Does system alternative SA-04 follow the Alliance natural gas pipeline?

A: Yes, SA-04 is proposed to follow the Alliance pipeline through south central Minnesota. The Alliance pipeline is one of [several natural gas pipelines in Minnesota](#).

Q: Is there a regulatory approval or notice required when a pipeline operator adjusts or changes the blend of the oil being transported in a pipeline?

A: At this time, there is not a federal or state regulatory approval or notice required when a pipeline operator adjusts or changes the blend of oil being transported in a pipeline. The U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) requires that any hazardous liquid being transported be chemically compatible with the pipeline, including all components, and any other commodity that it may come into contact with while in the pipeline (49 CFR 195.4).

PHMSA requires pipeline operators to report a change in product (for example, from liquid to gas, from crude oil to highly volatile liquids (HVL)), or a reversal of flow that lasts more than 30 days.

The Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety does not require notifications regarding a change in the blend of the oil being transported in a pipeline. Operators are required to file annual reports which list commodity types at a high level (e.g., crude, refined product). If there was a change in the product being transported at that level, it would be reflected in the annual report.

Q: Will the environmental impact statement (EIS) use the federal social cost of carbon when analyzing potential greenhouse gas impacts?

A: Yes, the EIS will utilize the federal social cost of carbon (currently \$36 per ton of CO₂-equivalent).