

- “The MPCA staff’s analysis of the proposed Sandpiper route shows many water body crossings for which there would be very difficult or no access downstream of the crossing to clean up spills in the event of a crude oil release. The lack of possible access to these areas by people and equipment necessary to clean up spills increases the likelihood that an incident could result in significant long-term environmental damage. A failure to account for these possibilities is considered to be a substantial flaw with the currently proposed Sandpiper route.”
- “The proposed Sandpiper route crosses 28 water bodies for which there is no access for possible containment within 2,000 linear feet downstream of the proposed pipe crossing. Of these 28 water body crossings, one is a stream to lake system, 12 are wetland complexes, 10 are streams that flow to wetland systems, and five are streams that flow to areas with stands of wild rice .”
- By contrast, according to MPCA, the alternative suggested by Friends of the Headwaters, “would cross no water bodies lacking access within 2000 feet of a potential leak site in surface water. There are very few water bodies crossed by this route in general over the proposed route.”