



**STATE OF MINNESOTA
IN SUPREME COURT**

C6-98-1978

**Re: Consolidation of Alliance Pipeline
Condemnation Cases**

ORDER

WHEREAS, the Court has been notified that a large number of condemnation cases have been or will be filed in Minnesota state courts involving the construction of a pipeline across thirteen counties of the state;

WHEREAS, these actions are likely to involve, in numerous instances, similar questions of law and fact, the potential for duplicative discovery and other common theories or problems; and

WHEREAS, the same plaintiff and the same defense counsel would be involved in multiple actions; and

WHEREAS, the Court has determined that the interests of the parties and the judiciary are furthered by a uniform and coordinated system of litigation management and by the economical use of limited judicial resources and personnel;

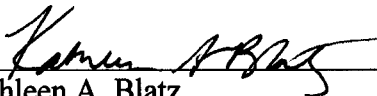
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §480.16 and §2.724, the Honorable Gerald J. Seibel of the Eighth Judicial District, having consented, is appointed to hear and decide all matters including pre-trial and trial proceedings, and all presently pending and future actions before Minnesota state trial courts involving the Alliance Pipeline condemnation cases.
2. Matters not resolved by agreement of the parties, when determined by the Court to be ready for trial, shall be scheduled promptly for trial in the county of original venue or where agreed upon by all affected counsel, giving due consideration to the scheduling concerns of affected counsel, the parties and the public interest in avoiding protracted delay in trial.

3. Trials in such cases shall be heard by the Honorable Gerald J. Seibel or, as may be necessary to assure prompt disposition of the case, a judge of the venued district.
4. Each judicial district administrator shall assist in scheduling court facilities and judicial personnel so as to permit prompt trial by the Honorable Gerald J. Seibel or a judge of the venued district for each matter identified as ready for trial.
5. This assignment shall govern all Alliance Pipeline condemnation cases wherever venued and apply in all districts and counties in the State of Minnesota.

DATED: October 30, 1998

By the Court,



Kathleen A. Blatz
Chief Justice

OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS

OCT 30 1998

FILED