

1 **4.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

2 **4.1 INTRODUCTION**

3 Pursuant to the requirements of NEPA regulations at 40 CFR 1502.15 and *Minnesota Rules*, part  
 4 4410.2300, this chapter describes the affected environment of the NorthMet Project Proposed  
 5 Action and Land Exchange Proposed Action. The information within this chapter provides  
 6 context to the analyses of the environmental consequences addressed in Chapter 5. Resource  
 7 topics were identified through scoping for both the NorthMet Project Proposed Action and Land  
 8 Exchange Proposed Action, development of the DEIS, and public comment on the DEIS. Refer  
 9 to Chapter 2 for more information on the SDEIS development process. The discussion of the  
 10 affected environment is limited to those resources that may be subject to potential environmental  
 11 effects from either the NorthMet Project Proposed Action or Land Exchange Proposed Action.

12 Table 4.1-1 lists the structure of Chapter 4.0 with respect to the NorthMet Project Proposed  
 13 Action and Land Exchange Proposed Action. Section 4.2 describes the existing conditions for  
 14 the natural and human environment that may be affected, directly or indirectly, by the NorthMet  
 15 Project Proposed Action. Section 4.3 describes the existing conditions of the same natural and  
 16 human environment resources as in Section 4.2, but specific to the areas that may be affected,  
 17 directly or indirectly, by the Land Exchange Proposed Action or Land Exchange Alternative B.

18 **Table 4.1-1 Resource Topic Areas Discussed in Chapter 4**

<b>Resource Topic</b>	<b>NorthMet Project Proposed Action</b>	<b>Land Exchange Proposed Action</b>
Land Use	4.2.1	4.3.1
Water Resources	4.2.2	4.3.2
Wetlands	4.2.3	4.3.3
Vegetation	4.2.4	4.3.4
Wildlife	4.2.5	4.3.5
Aquatic Species	4.2.6	4.3.6
Air Quality	4.2.7	4.3.7
Noise and Vibration	4.2.8	4.3.8
Cultural Resources	4.2.9	4.3.9
Socioeconomics	4.2.10	4.3.10
Recreation and Visual Resources	4.2.11	4.3.11
Wilderness and Special Designation Areas	4.2.12	4.3.12
Hazardous Materials	4.2.13	4.3.13
Geotechnical Stability	4.2.14	4.3.14

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