

August 15, 2022

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 12225 Wilkins Avenue Rockville, Maryland 20852

RE: Proposed Northern Lights 2023 Expansion Project

Docket Number: CP22-138-000

Dear Ms. Bose,

On behalf of Commissioner Petersen, Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the Northern Lights 2023 Expansion Project. proposed Northern Natural Gas Company.

In reviewing energy projects under the regulatory authority of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), MDA has the role and the responsibility of working with project applicants to prepare an Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA).

Northern Natural Gas Company, working with their consultant firm, Stantec, developed a draft AIMA and submitted it to MDA for review and comment. We completed our review of the document and had follow up discussions with the project applicant and their consultants for clarification. The only concern we had was that, for projects such as this, we normally require inspection by an independent 3rd party Environmental Monitor during the construction process to be assured that the practices and procedures outlined in the AIMA are adequately followed. However, in this case, we recognize the comparatively small risk of impact to agricultural land and agree to defer to the oversight conditions that FERC places on the construction process.

We have reviewed the final AIMA, as will be submitted in the docket, and conclude that our concerns are adequately addressed in the document.

MDA thanks you for the opportunity to submit these comments on the AIMA for the Northern Lights 2023 Expansion Project. We also wish to thank the project proposers and Stantec for their collaborative approach to working with us.

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If you have any questions about MDA's comments, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Stephan Roos

Environmental Planner

Energy and Environment Section

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Commissioner Thom Petersen, MDA cc:

Steve Ross

Document Content(s)			
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