

## Martens, Donna (Northern Natural Gas)

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**From:** McLaughlin, Kyle L - DNR <Kyle.McLaughlin@wisconsin.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 22, 2024 1:56 PM  
**To:** Martens, Donna (Northern Natural Gas)  
**Cc:** Ingwell, Adam - PSC; Schoen, Jill M - DNR; Haller, Macaulay G - DNR; Radermacher, Geri M - DNR; Rowe, Stacy A - DNR; Whitens, Samantha M - DNR  
**Subject:** [INTERNET] Northern Natural Gas Northern Lights 2025 Expansion Project Regulatory Requirements  
**Attachments:** NNG Northern Lights 2025 Expansion Introduction WDNR response letter.pdf; 03.07.24 Northern Natural Gas.pdf

You don't often get email from kyle.mclaughlin@wisconsin.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good afternoon,

Please see the attached correspondence outlining Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regulatory considerations intended as a response to the introductory letter dated March 4, 2024 (also attached) introducing the NNG Northern Lights 2025 Expansion Project.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Kyle McLaughlin

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**Kyle McLaughlin**

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Bureau of Environmental Analysis and Sustainability/Division of External Services  
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March 22, 2024

Northern Natural Gas  
Attn: Donna Martens, Senior Regulatory Analyst  
1111 South 103rd St.  
Omaha, NE 68124-1000

RE: Northern Natural Gas Northern Lights 2025 Expansion Project

Dear Ms. Martens,

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff have received your letter introducing the Northern Natural Gas Northern Lights 2025 Expansion Project (Project). Based on the information provided in your email, received on March 7, 2024, we have determined that this project may require certain DNR permits and/or approvals prior to construction or operation of certain components of the project.

Should any element or segment of the proposed Project cross waters of the state, as defined in s. 281.01 (18), Wis. Stats., permits from the DNR may be required under the authority of s. 30, Wis. Stats. Subject activities may include, but is not limited to, the following: placement of structures below the ordinary high water mark within navigable waters, disturbances of the banks of navigable waters, removal of bed material from navigable waters, and placement of permanent or temporary bridges over navigable waters.

For any activities subject to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Section 404 permitting, the DNR must issue Water Quality Certification under Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act, and pursuant to NR 103 and NR 299, Wis. Adm. Code. Should any element or segment of the proposed Project create a discharge of fill into wetlands, as defined in s. 23.32 (1), Wis. Stats., permits from the DNR may be required under the authority of s. 281.36, Wis. Stats. Subject temporary and/or permanent wetland fill may include, but is not limited to, the following: placement of temporary or permanent structures in wetland, such as construction matting, backfilling a trench, and road fill placement.

If the associated land disturbance for the Project is expected to exceed one acre, coverage under the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) Construction Stormwater general permit, under s. 283, Wis. Stats., and NR 216, Wis. Adm. Code would be required. Discharge of water due to pit or trench dewatering associated with construction may require a determination of the applicability of a WPDES general permit under s. 283, Wis. Stats.

Should the construction of this Project affect protected species, an Endangered Resources Review and/or an Incidental Take Review and Permit may be required under s. 29.604, Wis. Stats.

Should any element or segment of the proposed Project cross DNR-owned, managed, or funded property, including trails, additional coordination with DNR Real Estate Staff may be required.

Although this project is not expected to require approval from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC), pipeline application information available on their website outlines how to prepare a thorough application for DNR review: <https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Energy/FilingRequirements.aspx>. Applications for

waterway, wetland, and WPDES stormwater permits can be submitted using our e-permitting system at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/permits/water>.

Please note that these determinations are based on information provided in your introductory letter and is subject to change based on project updates. Additionally, Northern Natural Gas must obtain any permits and/or approvals necessary for this project, regardless of whether or not they have been identified by this letter.

For any questions or concerns, or to discuss permit application requirements more specifically, please contact DNR's Office of Energy Project Liaisons, Geri Radermacher (Geri.Radermacher@wisconsin.gov) or Macaulay Haller (Macaulay.Haller@wisconsin.gov).

Sincerely,



Kyle McLaughlin

Integration Services Section Manager, DNR

Email cc:

Adam Ingwell, Environmental Affairs, PSC  
Jill Schoen, Secretary's Director, DNR  
Macaulay Haller, Energy Project Liaison, DNR Office of Energy  
Geri Radermacher, Energy Project Liaison, DNR Office of Energy  
Stacy Rowe, Endangered Resources, DNR Office of Energy  
Samantha Whitens, Stormwater Engineer, DNR Office of Energy



Northern Natural Gas  
P.O. Box 3330  
Omaha, NE 68103-0330  
402 398-7200

WI DEPT. OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

March 4, 2024

MAR 07 2024

RE: Northern Natural Gas  
Northern Lights 2025 Expansion  
Docket No. CP24 -60-000

OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY

Dear Sir or Madam:

Northern Natural Gas (Northern) owns, and operates an interstate natural gas pipeline system and is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). On February 16, 2024, Northern filed an application with FERC in Docket No. CP24-60-000 requesting authorization to construct and operate (1) a 3.00-mile extension of its 36-inch-diameter Lake Mills to Albert Lea E-line in Freeborn County, Minnesota (MN); (2) a 2.43-mile extension of its 30-inch-diameter Elk River 3rd branch line in Washington County, MN; (3) a non-contiguous 1.91-mile extension of its 30-inch-diameter Farmington to Hugo C-line in Washington County, MN; (4) a 1.28-mile extension of its 8-inch-diameter Tomah branch line loop in Monroe County, Wisconsin (WI); and (5) minor modifications to its existing La Crescent compressor station in Houston County, MN. Pipeline installation will include aboveground appurtenant facilities consisting of a launcher, receiver and/or tie-over valve settings.

Northern must obtain FERC approval to construct and operate the proposed facilities. Northern requested issuance of an order approving the project by December 19, 2024. Pending approval of the project, Northern plans to commence construction spring 2025, with an in-service date for all project components by November 1, 2025.

Northern will utilize a 75-, 90-, or 100-foot-wide temporary workspace to accommodate installation of the pipelines. The pipelines will be installed parallel to existing pipelines wherever possible. Various sizes of extra temporary workspace, staging areas, and new or to be improved temporary access roads will be utilized during construction. Northern will utilize existing easements where practicable; Northern will work with landowners to obtain permanent pipeline, facility and access easements as well as temporary workspace.

This letter has been sent to you because you have been identified as a potential stakeholder by virtue of being a public official in the project area or a representative of a permitting or interested agency.

Northern also is providing notification to landowners that are either directly or indirectly affected by the project; FERC regulations require that various attachments be included with the letter sent to the landowners. These attachments have been posted to the project website established by Northern at <https://www.northernnaturalgas.com/expansionprojects/Pages/NorthernLights2023.aspx>. Click on the "Attachments to February 2024 Landowner Letter" under the Resources tab on the left side of the screen. This information includes:

- (1) General location maps showing the Project areas
- (2) A pamphlet prepared by FERC entitled, *An Interstate Natural Gas Facility on My Land? What Do I Need to Know?* The pamphlet explains the certificate approval process at FERC, and addresses how the location of a pipeline or other facility is decided and the rights of property owners
- (3) A copy of FERC's notice of Northern's application. This notice provides information on how to intervene or participate in FERC's proceeding. Motions to intervene must be filed in writing to FERC's Secretary, 888 First Street NE, Washington, D.C., 20406
- (4) A summary of landowner rights under Minnesota and Wisconsin eminent domain statutes
- (5) A copy of Northern's Environmental Complaint Resolution Procedures, which provides landowners the process to use to raise concerns

Additional information regarding the proposed project can be found on the project website. Northern will continue to keep affected stakeholders apprised of the project's status through this website. Should you have any questions regarding this letter or the project, please feel free to contact Northern at 1-888-367-6671. If you call, please tell the operator that you are calling about the Northern Lights 2025 expansion project. Alternatively, you may email us at: [NorthernLights2025@nngco.com](mailto:NorthernLights2025@nngco.com). A copy of Northern's application (public information) has been mailed to the following libraries and is available for viewing:

Hardwood Creek Library  
19955 Forest Rd. N.  
Forest Lake, MN 55025

Elk River Public Library  
13020 Orono Parkway  
Elk River, MN 55330

Sparta Free Library  
124 W. Main Street  
Sparta, WI 54656

Albert Lea Public Library  
211 E. Clark Street  
Albert Lea, MN 56007

La Crescent Public Library  
321 Main Street  
La Crescent, MN 55947

Northern's application also may be viewed through FERC's website at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number CP24-60-000 in the docket number field to access the document. User assistance is available by email at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll free at 866-208-3676 (TTY, call 202-502-8659). Additional information regarding FERC's regulations, policies or procedures is available on FERC's website at <http://www.ferc.gov> or from FERC's Office of External Affairs at 866-208-3372.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Martens". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Donna Martens  
Senior Regulatory Analyst