

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

April 30, 2025

Via eFiling

Ms. Debbie-Anne Reese, Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Northern Natural Gas Company Northern Lights 2025 Docket No. CP24-60-000 Biweekly Environmental Inspector Report # 5

Dear Ms. Reese:

Pursuant to Condition 8 of the Order Issuing Certificate and Approving Abandonment issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission February 19, 2025, Northern Natural Gas hereby submits for filing in the above-referenced docket its biweekly environmental inspector report for the period ending April 27, 2025.

Any questions regarding the filing should be directed at the undersigned at (402) 398-7138.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Donna Martens

Donna Martens Senior Regulatory Analyst

Northern Natural Gas Company Northern Lights 2025 (CP24-60-000) Weekly Status Report No. 5 Period Ending April 27, 2025

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Northern Natural Gas (Northern) will construct and operate the Project, which will consist of (1) a 3.00mile extension of its 36-inch-diameter Lake Mills to Albert Lea E-line; (2) a 2.42-mile extension of its 30inch-diameter Elk River 3rd branch line; (3) a non-contiguous 1.90-mile extension of its 30-inch-diameter Farmington to Hugo C-line<sup>1</sup>; (4) a 1.28-mile extension of its 8-inch-diameter Tomah branch line loop; (5) minor modifications to its existing La Crescent compressor station; and (6) aboveground facilities including a launcher, receiver and tie-in valve settings. All Project components are located in various counties in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

### FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION STATUS

Northern has received all federal and state permits required under federal law for the Project.

### Lake Mills to Albert Lea E-line

Northern will construct and operate an approximately 3.00-mile extension of its 36-inch-diameter MNM80105 Lake Mills to Albert Lea E-line in Freeborn County, Minnesota. Northern will remove the existing aboveground valve setting located in Section 16, Township 101 North, Range 22 West (Section 16, T101N, R22W), Freeborn County, Minnesota. Northern will construct and operate an aboveground valve setting at the terminus of the proposed extension on the north side of 165th Street in Section 33, T102N, R22W, Freeborn County, Minnesota.

#### **Environmental Training**

One contractor will construct the Lake Mills to Albert Lea E-line and associated aboveground facilities. The environmental training totals listed below reflect all training conducted to date for this component.

On-site Contractor: K & K, Inc. (K&K) Overall Construction Start Date: Commenced April 21, 2025 Environmental Training Conducted: This reporting period: 19 Total to date: 19

**Construction Status:** Eagan, Field, and Nowac, Inc. (EFN) commenced surveying the staging area north of 165th Street (Private Drive) April 16, 2025.<sup>2</sup> Northern conducted a preconstruction meeting via conference call April 17, 2025. K&K commenced mobilization of equipment to the staging area north of 165th Street April 19, 2025. K&K commenced installation of erosion control devices (ECDs) for the perimeter of the staging area north of 165th Street at milepost (MP) 34.2 on April 21, 2025. K&K commenced installation of ECDs for the temporary workspace south of 165th Street at MP 34.1 on April 21, 2025. K&K commenced removal and stockpiling of topsoil north of 165th Street for the staging area April 21, 2025. K&K commenced

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The total pipeline length of the Farmington to Hugo C-line extension was reduced from 1.91 miles to 1.90 miles as described in Northern's implementation plan and response to the conditions of the order (condition 5) filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) March 6, 2025.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The survey crew with EFN received training for all project components February 26, 2025.

hauling and spreading rock for 165th Street and the temporary access road for the staging area at MP 34.2 on April 21, 2025. K&K commenced removal and stockpiling of topsoil south of 165th Street at MP 34.1 on April 23, 2025. K&K commenced installation of mats within the staging area for turn-around for the pipe trucks April 24, 2025. K&K commenced and completed seeding and application of certified weed free straw mulch for topsoil spoil piles for the staging area north of 165th Street on April 26, 2025.

#### **Construction Modifications:**

No construction modifications occurred during this reporting period.

#### **Stream Crossings and Environmentally Sensitive Areas**

No stream crossings or other environmentally sensitive areas were impacted during this reporting period.

#### **Rain Events**

Two rain events of 0.50 inch or more occurred during this reporting period. One rain event of 1.07 inches occurred on April 18, 2025. One rain event of 0.63 inch occurred on April 21, 2025. During this reporting period the project received 2.09 inches of precipitation. To date, the project has received 2.09 inches of precipitation.

Activity	Start Date	Completed	Notes
Survey	4/16/2025	60%	Survey is ongoing
Clearing	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grading	4/21/2025	5%	Grading is ongoing
Stringing			
Welding			
Ditching			
Lower-in			
Backfill			
Topsoil			
Restoration			
Removal of			
existing E-line			
tie-over valve			
setting			
New Lake Mills			
tie-in valve			
setting			
Clean-up			
Seeding			

### **Two-Week Projection**

- 1. Continue installation of ECDs
- 2. Continue removal and stockpiling of topsoil
- 3. Commence receiving pipe
- 4. Complete mobilization of equipment

#### Lake Mills to Albert Lea E-line Related Spill Totals

All project derived waste will be properly managed and every effort will be made to eliminate spills.

#### Elk River 3rd Branch Line

Northern will construct and operate an approximately 2.42-mile extension of its 30-inch-diameter MNB87703 Elk River 3rd branch line in Washington County, Minnesota. The proposed extension will be

tied in below ground approximately 260 feet north of the current terminus in Section 36, T32N, R21W, Washington County, Minnesota; the existing aboveground valve setting located on the east side of July Avenue in Section 36, T32N, R21W, Washington County, Minnesota, will be removed. The downstream tie-in to both Northern's 20-inch-diameter MNB87701 Elk River branch line and 20-inch-diameter MNB87702 Elk River loop will be completed with a new valve setting at the west side of Henna Avenue North in Section 3, T31N, R21W, Washington County, Minnesota.

# **Environmental Training**

One contractor will construct the Elk River 3rd branch line extension. The environmental training totals listed below reflect all training conducted to date for this component.

On-site Contractor: Otis Minnesota Services, LLC (Otis)

Overall Construction Start Date: Commenced Blanding's turtle exclusionary fencing installation April 24, 2025, and main construction crew scheduled to mobilize May 5, 2025 Environmental Training Conducted: This reporting period: 5 Total to date: 5

# **Construction Status:**

EFN completed survey on the Elk River 3rd branch line project April 25, 2025. Otis commenced ECD installation and completed ECD installation from MP 1.0 to MP 1.45. Otis completely wrapped the entire workspace with silt fence and blocked off the access points with weed free straw bales to create a turtle exclusion area.

Construction Modifications: There were no construction modifications during this reporting period.

# Stream Crossings and Environmentally Sensitive Areas

No stream crossings or environmentally sensitive areas were impacted during this reporting period.

# **Rain Events**

There were no rain events of 0.50 inch or more during this reporting period.

Activity	Start Date	Completed	Notes
Survey	4/10/2025	4/25/2025	
Clearing			
Grading			
Stringing			
Welding			
Ditching			
HDD ERT P4-1			
HDD ERT P4-2			
HDD ERT P4-3			
HDD ERT P4-4			
HDD ERT P4-5			
HDD ERT P4-6			
HDD ERT P4-7			
Lower-in			
Backfill			
Topsoil			
Restoration			
Existing Elk			
River tie-over			
valve setting to			
be removed			

New Elk River tie-in valve setting			
Clean-up			
Seeding			
*Completed tota	*Completed totals include either percentage completed or date all completed. All totals are approximate.		

### **Two-Week Projection**

- 1. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2025
- 2. Complete ECD installation
- 3. Mobilize main construction crew to site
- 4. Commence topsoil removal

# Elk River 3rd Branch Line Related Spill Totals

All project derived waste will be properly managed and every effort will be made to eliminate spills.

# Farmington to Hugo C-Line Extension

Northern will construct and operate a non-contiguous 1.90-mile extension of its 30-inch-diameter Farmington to Hugo C-line in Washington County, Minnesota. The proposed extension will be tied in below ground within Northern's existing Hugo compressor station in Section 6, T31N, R20W, Washington County, Minnesota. The downstream tie-in to Northern's 24-inch-diameter MNM86501 B-line will be completed at a new below-ground<sup>3</sup> valve setting in Section 7, T31N, R20W, Washington County, Minnesota.

# **Environmental Training**

One contractor will construct the Farmington to Hugo C-line extension and associated aboveground facilities. The environmental training totals listed below reflect all training conducted to date for this component.

On-site Contractor: Otis Minnesota Services, LLC (Otis)

Overall Construction Start Date: Scheduled to commence Blanding's turtle exclusionary fencing installation May 2, 2025<sup>4</sup>, and main construction crew scheduled to mobilize May 5, 2025.

**Environmental Training Conducted**: This reporting period: 5 Total to date: 5<sup>5</sup>

Construction Status: EFN commenced surveys April 26, 2025. No other activities occurred.

Construction Modifications: There were no construction modifications during this reporting period.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> As described in Northern's implementation plan and response to the conditions of the order (condition 5) filed with FERC March 6, 2025, the new downstream valve setting for the Farmington to Hugo C-line extension will be below ground in accordance with landowner request rather than aboveground as originally proposed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> On April 24, 2025, Northern filed notice that construction commenced on the Farmington to Hugo C-line extension April 24, 2025. The same construction crew, Otis, is installing the Blanding's turtle exclusionary fencing for the Elk River 3rd branch line and the Farmington to Hugo C-line. Work on the fencing will commence on Farmington once the fencing on Elk River is completed. Northern apologizes for this error and will refile a notice once construction activities commence on the Farmington project component.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> As noted in footnote 4, the same crew will be working on the Farmington to Hugo C-line and the Elk River 3rd branch line. Training was therefore conducted for both projects during this reporting period.

### Stream Crossings and Environmentally Sensitive Areas

No stream crossings or other environmentally sensitive areas were impacted during this reporting period.

#### **Rain Events**

Northern will document rain events upon commencement of construction.

Farmington to Hu	igo C-Line Cons	struction Progres	S
Activity	Start Date	Completed	Notes
Survey	4/26/2025	5%	Survey commenced
Clearing			
Grading			
Stringing			
Welding			
Ditching			
HDD FAR P4-1			
HDD FAR P4-2			
Lower-in			
Backfill			
Topsoil			
Restoration			
Hugo			
compressor			
station launcher			
and valves			
Farmington tie-			
over valve			
setting Clean-up			
Seeding			
	include either	norcontana com	lated or data all completed. All totals are approximate
Completed totals	s include either	percentage comp	pleted or date all completed. All totals are approximate.

#### **Two-Week Projection**

1. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2025

# Farmington to Hugo C-line Related Spill Totals

All project derived waste will be properly managed and every effort will be made to eliminate spills.

#### **Tomah Branch Line Loop**

Northern will construct and operate an approximately 1.28-mile extension of its 8-inch-diameter WIB11902 Tomah branch line loop in Monroe County, Wisconsin. The proposed extension will be tied in below ground to the current terminus of the Tomah branch line loop in Section 1, T17N, R4W, Monroe County, Wisconsin, and the existing tie-in valve setting and receiver facility at this location will be removed. The downstream tie-in to its 6-inch-diameter WIB11901 branch line is located in Section 6, T17N, R3W, Monroe County, Wisconsin.

#### **Environmental Training**

One contractor will construct the Tomah branch line loop. The environmental training totals listed below reflect all training conducted to date for this component.

On-site Contractor: K & K, Inc. (K&K)

Overall Construction Start Date: Scheduled to commence May 12, 2025 Environmental Training Conducted: This reporting period: 0 Total to date: 0 Construction Status: No construction occurred during this reporting period.

Construction Modifications: Construction has not commenced.

#### **Stream Crossings and Environmentally Sensitive Areas**

No stream crossings or other environmentally sensitive areas were impacted during this reporting period.

#### **Rain Events**

Northern will document rain events upon commencement of construction.

Tomah Branch L			
Activity	Start Date	Completed	Notes
Survey			
Clearing			
Grading			
Stringing			
Welding			
Ditching			
HDD TBL P4-1			
HDD TBL P4-2			
Lower-in			
Backfill			
Topsoil			
Restoration			
Remove Tomah			
branch line			
loop receiver			
facility and tie-			
over valve			
setting			
Tomah Tie-over			
valve setting			
Clean-up			
Seeding			
*Completed total	s include either	percentage comp	bleted or date all completed. All totals are approximate.

#### **Two-Week Projection**

1. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2025

#### **Tomah Branch Line Loop Related Spill Totals**

All project derived waste will be properly managed and every effort will be made to eliminate spills.

### La Crescent Compressor Station

Northern will complete minor aboveground facility modifications within its existing La Crescent compressor station facility. The site is located in Section 16, T104N, R5W, Houston County, Minnesota. The facility modifications will consist of replacing the current blind flanges with compressor cylinder end caps; Northern will not complete any ground disturbance at this site and all work will be completed inside the compressor building. There will be no change to the horsepower or emissions at the facility as a result of the Project.

#### **Environmental Training**

One contractor will make the La Crescent compressor station modifications. The environmental training totals listed below reflect all training conducted to date for this component.

On-site Contractor: To be determined (TBD) Overall Construction Start Date: Anticipated July 2025 Environmental Training Conducted: This reporting period: 0 Total to date: 0

Construction Status: No construction occurred during this reporting period.

Construction Modifications: Construction has not commenced.

# Stream Crossings and Environmentally Sensitive Areas

No stream crossings or other environmentally sensitive areas were impacted during this reporting period.

### **Rain Events**

Northern will document rain events upon commencement of construction.

La Crescent Com	pressor Station	n Modifications Co	nstruction Progress
Activity	Start Date	Completed	Notes
Compressor modifications			
*Completed total	s include either	percentage compl	eted or date all completed. All totals are approximate.

### **Two-Week Projection**

1. A pre-construction meeting is tentatively scheduled for the week of July 7, 2025. The contractor will commence construction after that meeting.

# La Crescent Compressor Station Related Spill Totals

All project derived waste will be properly managed and every effort will be made to eliminate spills.

# PROJECT-WIDE AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND SITE VISITS

Northern continues consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bald eagle program regarding the bald eagle nest on the Farmington to Hugo C-Line reported in the last biweekly report.

# **PROJECT-WIDE LANDOWNER CONCERNS**

# Lake Mills to Albert Lea E-line

Northern's right of way department was contacted by landowner FR-001 regarding the placement of survey stakes on his property. Northern confirmed that all activities are confined to the existing easement in accordance with the landowner's direction during acquisition meetings. The landowner reiterated that no workspace outside the easement would be permitted and the project was subsequently adjusted to honor that request.

The landowner previously declined compensation for crop damages. Northern advised the landowner that it remains willing to provide compensation for any crop loss.

The landowner also expressed concern about potential impacts to drain tile infrastructure. Northern reminded him that under the terms of the easement agreement, Northern's contractor is fully responsible for repairing any damage that may occur during construction.

At this time, the landowner's concerns are considered resolved. Northern's right of way team will continue to coordinate with the landowner and remain available to address any future concerns.

# PROJECT-WIDE NON-COMPLIANCE CONCERNS

No project non-compliance concerns were identified during this reporting period.

# **PHOTOS**

# Lake Mills to Albert Lea E-line



Facing east at MP 34.2, EFN surveying staging area north of 165th Street



Facing north at MP 34.2, equipment inspected prior to unloading



Facing east at MP 34.2, K&K removing topsoil for staging area north of 165th Street



Facing east at MP 34.1, K&K installing ECDs



Facing northeast at MP 34.2, K&K dumping rock on geotextile for staging area north of 165th Street



Facing north at MP 34.2, topsoil spoil pile seeded and mulched



Facing northeast at MP 34.2, K&K installing mats for pipe truck turn-around north of 165th Street

# Elk River 3rd Branch Line



Facing east near MP 1.0, silt fencing installation commenced



Facing south near MP 1.45, silt fencing installation continued



Facing north near MP 3.4, survey was completed