



May 29, 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 Status Report No. 7

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 (Northern) hereby submits for filing in the above-referenced docket its biweekly environmental inspector report for the period ending May 26, 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) Biweekly Status Report No. 7 Period Ending May 26, 2025

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Northern Natural Gas (Northern) will construct and operate the Project, which will consist of (1) a 3.00-mile extension of its 36-inch-diameter Lake Mills to Albert Lea E-line; (2) a 2.42-mile extension of its 30-inch-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 new 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: 0 Total to date: 32

Construction Status: K&K completed receiving 36-inch-diameter mainline pipe at the north staging area at milepost (MP) 34.2 May 12, 2025. K&K completed stringing 36-inch-diameter mainline pipe north of 154th Street May 12, 2025. K&K commenced mechanical excavation to expose the tie-in location for the 36-inch-diameter MNM80105 E-line extension north of County Road 9 (135th Street) at MP 31.2 May 13, 2025. K&K commenced stringing 36-inch-diameter mainline pipe south of 154th Street May 13, 2025. K&K completed mechanical excavation of the tie-in location for the 36-inch-diameter MNM80105 E-line north of 135th Street at MP 31.2 May 15, 2025. K&K commenced welding 36-inch-diameter mainline pipe south of 165th Street at MP 34.1 May 16, 2025. K&K completed stringing 36-inch-diameter mainline pipe south of

<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.

154th Street May 17, 2025. K&K commenced stringing 36-inch-diameter mainline pipe south of 140th Street May 17, 2025, and completed stringing May 19, 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 greater occurred during this reporting period. One rain event of 0.64 inch occurred May 20, 2025. One rain event of 0.99 inch occurred May 21, 2025. During this reporting period the project received 1.70 inches of precipitation. To date, the project has received 5.45 inches of precipitation.

Activity	Start Date	Completed	Notes
Survey	4/16/2025	99%	Survey is ongoing
Clearing	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grading	4/21/2025	99%	Grading is ongoing
Stringing	5/5/2025	5/19/2025	Stringing is complete
Welding	5/16/2025	5%	Welding has commenced
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 welding line pipe
- 2. Commence sandblasting and coating
- 3. Commence trenching

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

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 new 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 April 24, 2025

Environmental Training Conducted<sup>2</sup>: This reporting period: 46 Total to date: 51

#### **Construction Status:**

Otis continued topsoil removal from MP 1.67 to MP 1.91, from MP 2.25 to MP 2.45 and from MP 2.93 to MP 3.28. Otis completed story pole installation, equipment and mat delivery. Otis commenced stringing and welding bore pipe on horizontal directional drill (HDD) P4-3 and P4-4. Acoustic Controls, a third-party contractor of Otis, commenced sound wall installation on HDD P4-3 and P4-4. Mears Group Inc. (Mears), a third-party HDD sub-contractor of Otis, mobilized their drilling rig for P4-3 and commenced drilling setup May 22, 2025.

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**

One rain event of 0.50 inch or greater occurred during this reporting period. A rain event of 2.40 inches occurred May 21, 2025. To date the project has received 4.68 inches of precipitation.

Activity	Start Date	Completed	Notes	
Survey	4/10/2025	5/2/2025	Primary survey is complete	
Clearing	4/28/2025	5/10/2025	Clearing is complete	
Grading	5/6/2025	40%	Grading is ongoing	
Stringing	5/15/2025	10%	Stringing has commenced	
Welding	5/16/2025	5%	Welding has commenced	
Ditching				
HDD ERT P4-1				
HDD ERT P4-2				
HDD ERT P4-3	5/22/2025	1%	Mears mobilized and setup drilling rig	
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				

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The same contractor and crews are constructing the Elk River 3rd branch line and Farmington-to-Hugo C-Line extension projects. The numbers reflect the training provided to the one contractor and any subcontractors; however, are double counted between the two projects.

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

## **Two-Week Projection**

- 1. Continue topsoil removal
- 2. Continue bore pipe stringing
- 3. Commence HDD P4-3 and P4-4
- 4. Commence stopple bypass at MP 1.0
- 5. Commence ditching and lowering-in

## Elk River 3rd Branch Line Related Spill

One spill occurred during this reporting period. On May 19, 2025, a spill totaling 0.010 gallon of motor oil occurred due to a gasket wearing out on the oil pan of a side boom. The spill was cleaned up immediately, and all contaminated materials were stored in contamination barrels onsite. The spill was below the reportable quantity for Minnesota.

## **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 new 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: May 3, 2025

Environmental Training Conducted<sup>2</sup>: This reporting period: 46 Total to date: 51

Construction Status: Otis conducted hydro-vacuum excavation within the Hugo compressor station.

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

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

No stream crossings or other environmentally sensitive areas were impacted 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 the landowner's request rather than aboveground as originally proposed.

#### **Rain Events**

One rain event of 0.50 inch or greater occurred during this reporting period. A rain event of 2.40 inches occurred May 21, 2025. To date the project has received 4.68 inches of precipitation.

Activity	Start Date	Completed	Notes	
Survey	4/26/2025	5/5/2025	Survey complete	
Clearing	5/3/2029	5/9/2025	Clearing complete	
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 *Completed totals				

## **Two-Week Projection**

- 1. Continue hydro-vac excavation in the Hugo compressor station
- 2. Expose tie-in locations to inspect pipe conditions

## 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 new 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 down-stream tie-in to Northern's 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: Commenced May 12, 2025

Environmental Training Conducted: This reporting period: 14 Total to date: 14

Construction Status: Contractor commenced mobilization of equipment and materials to the staging area near MP 3.5 May 12, 2025. The environmental inspector located an oriole nest near MP 2.5 May 13, 2025. K&K installed buffers with safety fence around the oriole nest. Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC. (Asplundh), a third-party sub-contractor of K&K, commenced tree clearing May 14, 2025, and completed tree felling May 23, 2025. K&K commenced erosion control device (ECD) installation near MP 3.5 May 14, 2025. K&K commenced road approach installation May 15, 2025. K&K commenced topsoil segregation near MP 3.5 May 16, 2025. K&K commenced ECD installation from MP 2.27 to MP 2.42 May 24, 2025. K&K commenced stump removal from MP 2.27 to MP 2.5 May 24, 2025.

**Construction Modifications:** There were no construction modifications 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**

One rain event of 0.50 inch or greater occurred during this reporting period. A rain event of 1.8 inches occurred May 21, 2025. During this reporting period the project received 1.8 inches of precipitation. To date, the project has received 1.8 inches of precipitation.

Activity	Start Date	Completed	Notes
Survey	4/22/2025	95%	Survey ongoing
Clearing	5/14/2025	5/23/2025	Clearing complete
Grading	5/16/2025	10%	Grading commenced
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	pleted or date all completed. All totals are approximate.

## **Two-Week Projection**

- 1. Complete ECD installation
- 2. Complete topsoil segregation
- 3. Commence stringing
- 4. Commence welding
- 5. Commence coating

## **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 Compressor Station Modifications Construction Progress				
Activity	Start Date	Completed	Notes	
Compressor modifications				
*Completed totals include either percentage completed or date all completed. All totals are approximate.				

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

- 1. Execute construction contract
- 2. 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

Clay Roesler, Tetra Tech third-party inspector for FERC, conducted an environmental compliance inspection of the Elk River 3rd branch line, Farmington-to-Hugo C-line extension, Tomah branch line

loop, and Lake Mills-to-Albert Lea E-line projects May 15-16, 2025.

## PROJECT-WIDE LANDOWNER CONCERNS

No project-wide landowner concerns were raised during this reporting period.

# PROJECT-WIDE NON-COMPLIANCE CONCERNS

## **Tomah Branch Line Loop**

On May 14, 2025, Asplundh Tree Service, a tree clearing subcontractor of K&K, parked three vehicles approximately five to ten feet outside of the approved project workspace near MP 2.6. The vehicles were parked within the existing easement for Northern's adjoining pipeline. The environmental inspector requested that the vehicles be moved within the Project workspace and Asplundh complied. No rutting occurred. The incident was reported to the FERC third-party inspector the following day.

# **PHOTOS**

# **Lake Mills to Albert Lea E-line**



Facing north at MP 34.2, contractor unloading line pipe



Facing southwest at MP 33.8, K&K stringing mainline pipe



Facing north at MP 31.2, K&K mechanically excavating tie-in location north of 135th Street



Facing south at MP 33.9, K&K welding mainline pipe

# Elk River 3rd Branch Line



Facing south near MP 1.68, stringing and welding commenced



Facing east near MP 1.69, stringing commenced



Facing north near MP 2.3, topsoil segregation ongoing



Facing north on HDD P4-3, sound wall installation ongoing

# Farmington-Hugo C-Line Extension



Facing north in the Hugo compressor station, contractor performing hydro-vacuum excavation

# **Tomah Branch Line Loop**



Facing northeast near MP 3.5, contractor installing ECDs



Facing north near MP 3.5, contractor stripping topsoil



Facing northwest near MP 3.5, contractor installing geotechnical fabric and flume pipe



Facing northeast near MP 3.5, contractor mulching topsoil pile



Facing northeast near MP 2.7, Asplundh clearing trees