



FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FIELD INSPECTION REPORT

Date July 7, 2026

Project Northern Natural Gas Company
Northern Lights 2025 Expansion Project
Freeborn, Washington, and Houston Counties, Minnesota; and Monroe
County, Wisconsin
Docket No.: CP24-60-000
Authority: 7(c)

Personnel FERC Contractor: Tetra Tech, Inc.
FERC Contractor Staff: Clay Roesler
Company Staff: Terry Plucker (Environmental Compliance
Manager)

Inspection Summary	
<u>0</u>	Problem Areas
<u>0</u>	Noncompliances
<u>No</u>	Follow-Up Letter Required
<u>No</u>	Refer to Enforcement

Introduction

On July 7, 2026, Clay Roesler of Tetra Tech performed an environmental compliance inspection of the Northern Natural Gas Company (NNG), Northern Lights 2025 Expansion Project (Project), under contract to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) and per the request of the FERC Environmental Project Manager, Andrea Bloomfield.

The Project consists of:

- the construction and operation of an approximately three-mile-long extension of its 36-inch-diameter Lake Mills to Albert Lea E-line and a new aboveground valve setting at the terminus of the extension, as well as the abandonment-by-removal of an existing aboveground valve setting at the take-off point, in Freeborn County, Minnesota (Lake Mills to Albert Lea E-Line);
- the construction and operation of an approximately 2.43-mile-long extension of its 30-inch-diameter Elk River 3rd Branch Line and an aboveground valve setting, as well as the abandonment-by-removal of an existing aboveground valve setting and approximately 275 feet of the existing 30-inch-diameter Elk River 3rd Branch Line, in Washington County, Minnesota (Elk River 3rd Branch Line);

- the construction and operation of a non-contiguous 1.91-mile-long extension of its 30-inch-diameter Farmington to Hugo C-Line, a new launcher, and an aboveground valve setting in Washington County, Minnesota (Farmington to Hugo C-Line);
- the construction and operation of an approximately 1.28-mile-long extension of its 8-inch-diameter Tomah Branch Line Loop and approximately 40 feet of belowground piping to tie-in the line with its existing receiver facility, the relocation of the existing receiver facility by installing it at the terminus of the extension, and the abandonment-by-removal of an aboveground valve setting in Monroe County, Wisconsin (Tomah Branch Line Loop); and
- minor modifications to an aboveground facility within its existing La Crescent Compressor Station (CS) in Houston County, Minnesota (La Crescent CS).

The purpose of the inspection was to determine NNG's compliance with the environmental conditions of the Commission's March 21, 2024, *Order Issuing Certificate and Approving Abandonment* for the Project and to inspect the construction and restoration conditions of the Project right-of-way (ROW).

The findings of the inspection were that no instances of noncompliance or problem areas were identified. A site map and photographic record are presented in this report.

Inspection

On July 7, 2026, the weather was partly cloudy, with intermittent rain over the previous two weeks at Lake Mills to Albert Lea, Elk River 3rd Branch Line and Farmington to Hugo C Line. Soil conditions along the Project ROW and workspaces were found to be stable.

The Elk River 3rd Branch Line inspection focused on assuring that the horizontal directional drill (HDD) installation was stable and that the HDD crossing was progressing without environmental concerns. First-year growing season restoration inspections were conducted on the Lake Mills to Albert Lea and Farmington to Hugo C Line ROWs.

Elk River 3rd Branch Line

At milepost (MP) 3.0 along the Elk River 3rd Branch Line, the HDD exit site was stable and buffered by a sound barrier wall. The silt fence along the edge of the ROW was well maintained (Photo No. 1). At the MP 2.4 drill pad site, the reamer was freed from being stuck and started turning. The crew began setting up for the final ream pass of the bore (Photo No. 2). The edge of the pad was stable, and silt fence was in good repair and functioning as designed (Photo No. 3). The topsoil pile at the edge of the workspace was stable, surrounded by silt fence and well vegetated (Photo No. 4). Overall, the drill entrance and exit pads were stable and well maintained, and no environment concerns were identified.

Lake Mills to Albert Lea

The entire ROW was returned to agricultural use, primarily corn crops. The corn crop growth along the ROW showed no difference to the off-ROW corn growth (Photo Nos. 5 through 7). The roadside ditches were well vegetated and stable, with no erosion observed. Overall, restoration along the ROW was returned to pre-construction conditions, with no erosion or environmental concerns identified.

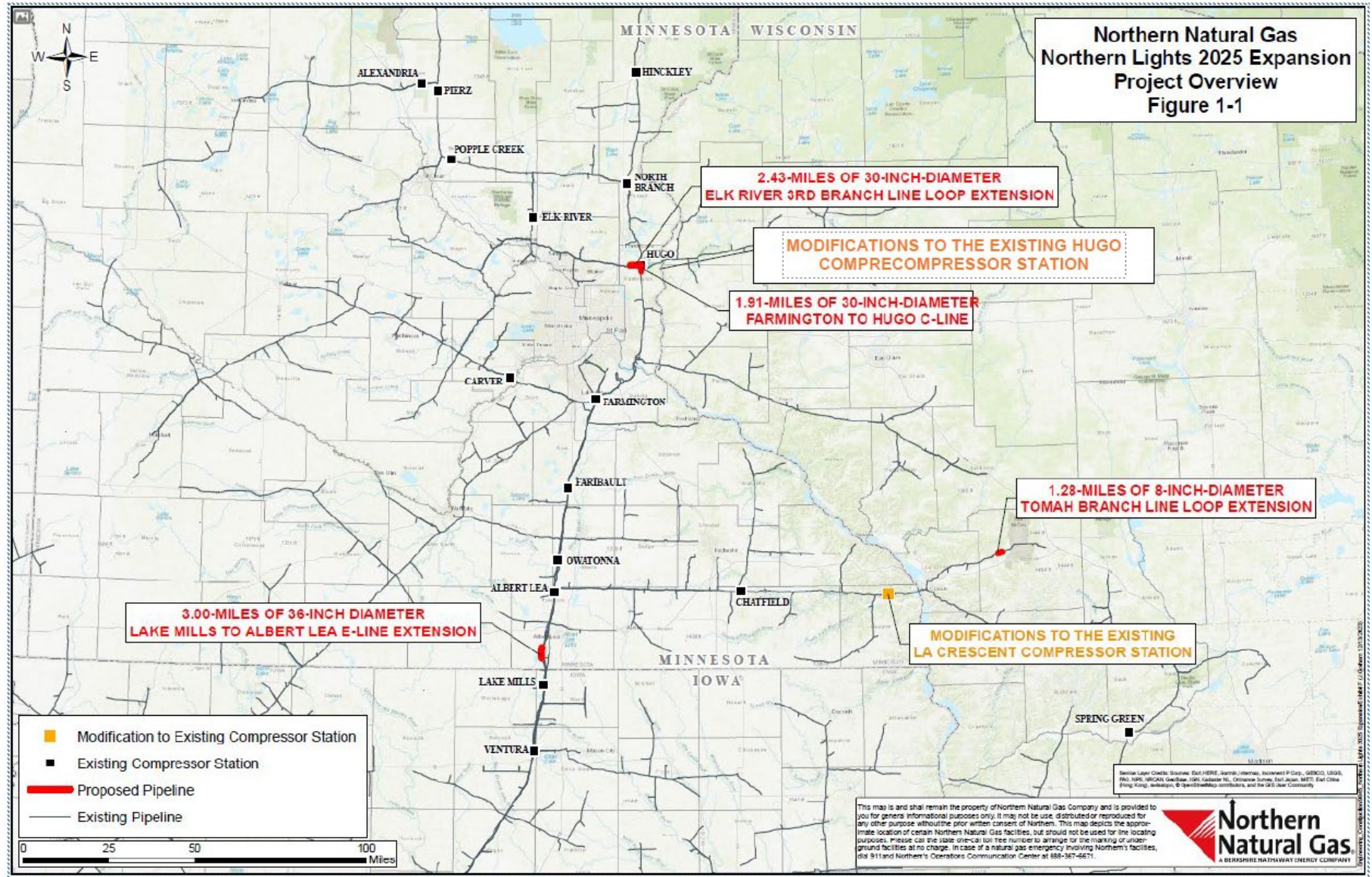
Farmington to Hugo C Line

At MP 0.0, revegetation was successful along the stabilized ROW, and erosion control devices (ECDs) were removed (Photo No. 8). At MP 1.0, the ROW was replanted during the Spring of this year. Vegetation was progressing, dominated by oats, and perennial vegetation was emerging beneath the oat cover (Photo No. 9). Revegetation along the ROW terminus (MP 1.75) was successful (Photo No. 10). Overall, restoration along the ROW was progressing well, and some remaining ECDs could be removed.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Environmental compliance with the FERC's *Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan* and *Wetland and Waterbody Construction and Mitigation Procedures* was acceptable. A follow-up letter is not required at this time, because no instances of noncompliance were identified. Overall, construction efforts and restoration were progressing satisfactorily, and no environmental concerns were identified. The next inspection is scheduled for the week of August 3, 2026.

SITE MAP



FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Company: Northern Natural Gas Company

Docket No.: CP24-60-000

Project: Northern Lights 2025 Expansion

Spread: Elk River 3rd Branch Line



Photo No.: 1

MP/Sta. No.: 3.0

Direction: East

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural, Open, and Forested ROW, Elk River 3rd Branch Line. The HDD exit site pad was stable, with the sound buffer wall remaining in place. The silt fence at the edge of the ROW was well maintained and functioning as designed. No erosion or environmental concerns were identified.



Photo No.: 2

MP/Sta. No.: 2.4

Direction: Northeast

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural, Open, and Forested ROW, Elk River 3rd Branch Line. The HDD drilling pad site was stable and maintained. The reamer was freed from being stuck and started to turn. No environmental concerns were identified.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Company: Northern Natural Gas Company

Docket No.: CP24-60-000

Project: Northern Lights 2025 Expansion

Spread: Elk River 3rd Branch Line



Photo No.: 3

MP/Sta. No.: 2.4

Direction: North

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural, Open, and Forested ROW, Elk River 3rd Branch Line. Stormwater flow off the drill pad had collected between the edge of the pad and the workspace boundary. The double row of silt fence was well maintained and functioning as designed to prevent off-ROW impacts. No environmental concerns were identified.



Photo No.: 4

MP/Sta. No.: 2.4

Direction: Southwest

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural, Open, and Forested ROW, Elk River 3rd Branch Line. The pad site was stable, the trailered generator was staged within containment, and silt fence was in place between the pad and the topsoil pile. The topsoil pad was stabilized well with vegetation, with no erosion observed. No environmental concerns were identified.

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

Company: Northern Natural Gas Company

Docket No.: CP24-60-000

Project: Northern Lights 2025 Expansion

Spreads: Lake Mills to Albert Lea



Photo No.: 5

MP/Sta. No.: 34.2

Direction: South

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural ROW, Lake Mills to Albert Lea. The ROW was returned to agricultural use, and corn crop growth along the ROW matched off-ROW crop growth. The roadside ditch was stabilized with vegetation. No environmental concerns were identified.



Photo No.: 6

MP/Sta. No.: 3.4

Direction: Northeast

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural ROW, Lake Mills to Albert Lea. The ROW was returned to agricultural use, and corn crop growth along the ROW matched off-ROW crop growth. The roadside ditch was stabilized with vegetation. No environmental concerns were identified.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Company: Northern Natural Gas Company

Docket No.: CP24-60-000

Project: Northern Lights 2025 Expansion

Spread: Lake Mills to Albert Lea/Farmington to Hugo C Line



Photo No.: 7

MP/Sta. No: 2.39

Direction: East

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural ROW, Lake Mills to Albert Lea. The ROW was returned to agricultural use, and corn crop growth along the ROW matched off-ROW crop growth. The roadside ditch was stabilized with vegetation. No environmental concerns were identified.



Photo No.: 8

MP/Sta. No: 0.0

Direction: South

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural, Open, and Forested ROW, Farmington to Hugo C Line (Kickoff). Revegetation was successful along on the stabilized ROW, and ECDs were removed. No environmental concerns were identified.

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

Company: Northern Natural Gas Company

Docket No.: CP24-60-000

Project: Northern Lights 2025 Expansion

Spread: Farmington to Hugo C Line



Photo No.: 9

MP/Sta. No: 1.0

Direction: Southeast

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural, Open, and Forested ROW, Farmington to Hugo C Line. The ROW was stable, with revegetation progressing well. Reseeded during the recent spring, the dominant species was oats, with perennial vegetation emerging beneath the oat cover. No environmental concerns were identified.



Photo No.: 10

MP/Sta. No: 1.75

Direction: South

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural, Open, ROW, Farmington to Hugo C Line (Terminus). Revegetation was successful along on the stabilized ROW, and ECDs were removed. No environmental concerns were identified.