



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

March 9, 2020

Via eFiling

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Northern Natural Gas Company
Northern Lights 2019 and Rochester Expansion Projects
Docket No. CP18-534-000
Monthly Environmental Inspection Report #1

Dear Ms. Bose:

Pursuant to Condition 8 of the Order Issuing Certificate and Approving Abandonment issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) February 21, 2019, Northern Natural Gas hereby submits for filing in the above-referenced docket its environmental inspector report for the period ending February 29, 2020. Following consultation with FERC staff, Northern will file monthly reports until restoration activities resume in spring 2020.

Any questions regarding the filing should be directed to the undersigned at (402) 398-7103.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Michael T. Loeffler

Michael T. Loeffler
Senior Director, Certificates and External Affairs

Northern Natural Gas Company**Northern Lights 2019 and Rochester Expansion Projects (CP18-34-000)****Monthly Status Report No. 1****January 26, 2020 – February 29, 2020****PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Northern Natural Gas (Northern) is constructing and will operate (all in Minnesota):

- Approximately 22.2 miles of new 16- and 24-inch-diameter greenfield pipeline
- Approximately 8.9 miles of new 24-, eight-, and six-inch-diameter pipeline loops and extensions
- One new compressor station
- Additional compression and related modifications to two existing compressor stations
- One new town border station (TBS)
- An increase of the maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) for approximately eight miles of 16-inch-diameter pipeline and the relocation of a regulator facility

FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION STATUS

The status of all federal authorizations, as well as local and state permits required, are listed in the table below.

Authorization Status		
Agency Name	Permit/Authorization/Letter of Concurrence	Status
FERC	Certificate for construction and operation of interstate natural gas transmission pipeline facilities ¹	Issued February 21, 2019
EPA	Clean Air Act permits and approvals	Delegated to the state (MPCA)
	CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification	Delegated to the state (MPCA)
	CWA Section 402 permits for wastewater or stormwater discharges	Delegated to the state (MPCA)
NRCS	Conservation Easement Program and seeding recommendations; Conservation Reserve Program ¹	Consultation complete March 2018.
USACE – St. Paul District	CWA Section 404 – Dredge and Fill Permit; Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act ¹ Utility Regional General Permit without preconstruction notification	Concurrence received December 11, 2018
USFWS – Twin Cities Field Office	Section 7 Endangered Species Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and MBTA ¹ No effect for all species, except northern long-eared bat 4D rule	Consultation complete December 21, 2018
Native American Tribes	NHPA and Section 106 consultation to determine if the project will have impact on receptors of Native American cultural importance ¹	Ongoing coordination with Upper Sioux Community regarding a tribal monitor for the Alexandria branch line loop extension and Rockford to Buffalo greenfield lateral
MPCA	For the Faribault compressor station, Clean Air Act, Prevention of Significant Deterioration Minor Construction/Title V Major Air Operations Permit. For the Carver and Owatonna compressor stations, Clean Air Act, Prevention of Significant Deterioration Minor Construction/Title V Minor Air Operation Permit ²	Permit applications submitted September 28, 2018. Permit for the Owatonna compressor station received February 25, 2019. Faribault received April 26, 2019. Carver anticipated May 2019
	Section 401 Water Quality Certification ¹	Authorization concurrent with USACE Section 404 approval. No individual 401 certification will be required.
	NPDES Stormwater Permit ¹	Owatonna, Faribault, and Carver compressor stations received March 15, 2019. New Prague branch line and Alexandria branch line received April 16, 2019. Rockford to Buffalo

Authorization Status		
Agency Name	Permit/Authorization/Letter of Concurrence	Status
		received April 26, 2019, Rochester received May 1, 2019. Willmar C-line received May 10, 2019. LaCrosse branch line MAOP uprate received July 15, 2019.
	NPDES Trench Water Discharge Permit ¹	Owatonna, Faribault, and Carver compressor stations received March 15, 2019. New Prague branch line and Alexandria branch line received April 16, 2019. Rockford to Buffalo received April 26, 2019, Rochester received May 1, 2019. Willmar C-line received May 10, 2019. LaCrosse branch line MAOP uprate received July 15, 2019.
	State License to Cross Public Lands and Waters ¹	Received April 25, 2019.
	State Protected Species Consultation ¹	Consultation complete December 20, 2019
MDNR	Water Appropriation Permit General Permit 1997-0005 ¹	Faribault compressor station received March 15, 2019. Owatonna compressor station received March 19, 2019. Carver compressor station received March 21, 2019. New Prague branch line received April 8, 2019. Alexandria branch line received April 9, 2019. Rockford to Buffalo greenfield received April 11, 2019. La Crosse branch line MAOP uprate and Willmar C-line received April 12, 2019. Rochester received April 26, 2019. Final water appropriation totals were filed for the New Prague branch line, Alexandria branch line loop extension, Rochester greenfield lateral, Carver compressor station, and Faribault compressor station November 27, 2019
Minnesota Historical Society - SHPO	Section 106 Consultation, NHPA ¹	Concurrence of "no historic properties affected" for Faribault and Owatonna compressor stations, New Prague branch line loop, Rochester TBS, La Crosse branch line MAOP regulator station, and La Crosse branch line MAOP uprate; and "no adverse effect on King Oscar's settlement" for Carver compressor station received September 27, 2018 The MN SHPO provided concurrence with findings of either "no historic properties affected," or "no adverse effect on historic properties" for all project facilities April 18, 2019.
Township Cooperative Planning Association-Olmsted County (TCPA)	Grading permit ³	Permit issued May 7, 2019
Soil and Water Conservation District-Olmsted County (SWCD)	Grading permit/wetland permit ³	SWCD waived permit requirement since Northern is obtaining permit from TCPA
Hennepin County	Floodplain disturbance permit ²	Not required
Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission ²	Wetland permit ²	USACE coordinated concurrence December 11, 2018
Olmsted County SWCD	Wetland delineation concurrence for the Rochester project	USACE coordinated concurrence December 11, 2018
Wright County SWCD	Wetland delineation concurrence for the Rockford to	USACE coordinated concurrence

Authorization Status		
Agency Name	Permit/Authorization/Letter of Concurrence	Status
	Buffalo project ²	December 11, 2018

¹ Permit applications and authorizations apply to both the Rochester Project and NL 2019 Project

² Permit applications and authorizations apply to only NL 2019 Project

³ Permit applications and authorizations apply to only the Rochester Project

Carver Compressor Station

Northern constructed and is operating an 11,153-horse power (HP) greenfield compressor station in Carver County, Minnesota.

Environmental Training

One contractor constructed the Carver compressor station. The environmental training totals listed below reflect all training conducted for the Carver compressor station.

On-site Contractor: K & K Construction, LLC (K & K)

Overall Construction Start Date: April 22, 2019

Environmental Training Conducted: This reporting period: 0 Total to date: 119

Construction Status:

Civil: No civil work was completed during the reporting period.

Electrical: Electrical work is complete.

Mechanical: Mechanical work is complete.

Construction Modifications: No construction modifications occurred during this reporting period.

Stream Crossings and Environmentally Sensitive Areas

There are no stream crossings or other environmentally sensitive areas located within the workspace for the Carver compressor station.

Rain Events

Zero rain events of 0.5 inch or greater occurred during this reporting period. To date, the project has received 33.86 inches of precipitation.

Carver Compressor Station Construction Progress			
Activity	Start Date	Completed	Notes
Site Preparation	4/22/2019	05/18/2019	Laydown yard is constructed and topsoil has been removed
Civil	4/22/2019	99%	The contractor will repair/replace doors onsite
Permanent Stormwater	9/25/2019	10/29/2019	The permanent stormwater design has been installed
Pipeline Tie-ins	5/17/2019	06/18/2019	Pipeline tie-ins have been completed
Mechanical	3/26/2019	10/18/2019	Pipe sweeps and final bolt-ups are complete
Hydrostatic Testing	6/01/2019	09/09/2019	Final hydrostatic pressure testing is complete
Electrical	5/08/2019	11/27/2019	Electrical work is complete

Commissioning	9/03/2019	10/24/2019	Commissioning is complete
Clean-Up and Restoration	9/18/2019	11/12/2019	Clean-up and restoration are complete
*Completed totals include either percentage completed or date all completed. All totals are approximate. Percentage completed references the location at time table was completed within this reporting period.			

Monthly Projection

1. Repair the roll-up door in the auxiliary building

Carver Compressor Station Related Spill Totals

All project derived waste will be properly managed and every effort will be made to eliminate spills. K & K made arrangements with OSI Environmental to manage and dispose of project derived hazardous waste. No spills occurred during this reporting period.

This reporting period: 0
 Total to date: 1

Quantity: 0.000 gallons
 Total quantity: 0.031 gallon

Spills To Date				
Spill No.	Date	Segment	Volume	Notes
1	4/23/2019	Carver Compressor Station	0.031 gallon	A hydraulic hose fitting leak was detected on a bulldozer. The leak was contained, cleaned up, and repaired.
*The Minnesota Duty Officer will be notified of all spills meeting reporting requirements of the MPCA and/or MDNR. The National Response Center (NRC) will be notified as applicable.				

Owatonna Compressor Station

Northern constructed and is operating an additional 15,900-HP turbine unit (Unit No. 2) and appurtenant facilities at the Owatonna compressor station located in Steele County, Minnesota.

Environmental Training

One contractor constructed the Owatonna compressor station. The environmental training totals listed below reflect all training conducted for this project facility.

On-site Contractor: Ranger Plant Constructional Company, Inc. (Ranger)

Overall Construction Start Date: April 2, 2019

Environmental Training Conducted: This reporting period: 0 Total to date: 110

Construction Status:

Civil: Civil work is complete. All temporary stabilization is complete.

Mechanical: Mechanical work is complete.

Electrical: Electrical work is complete.

Construction Modifications: No construction modifications occurred during this reporting period.

Stream Crossings and Environmentally Sensitive Areas

There are no stream crossings or other environmentally sensitive areas located within the workspace for the Owatonna compressor station.

Rain Events

No rain events of 0.5 inch or greater occurred during this reporting period. To date, the project has received 46.80 inches of precipitation.

Owatonna Compressor Station Construction Progress			
Activity	Start Date	Completed	Notes
Site Preparation	4/1/2019	7/26/2019	Site preparation is completed
Civil	4/9/2019	11/22/2019	Civil work is completed
Permanent Stormwater	4/24/2019	11/15/2019	Infiltration trench is completed
Pipeline Tie-Ins	9/10/2019	9/14/2019	Tie-ins are completed
Mechanical	4/19/2019	11/22/2019	Mechanical work is completed
Hydrostatic Testing	8/23/2019	8/24/2019	Hydrostatic testing completed
Electrical	6/3/2019	1/24/2020	Electrical work is completed
Commissioning	10/2/2019	11/1/2019	Commissioning is completed
Clean-Up and Restoration	10/14/2019	99%	Ranger completed clean-up and demobilizing. Due to onset of winter conditions, the site seeding work will be completed in spring 2020
*Completed totals include either percentage completed or date all completed. All totals are approximate. Percentage completed references the location at time table was completed within this reporting period.			

Monthly Projection

1. Site seeding work will be completed in spring 2020

Owatonna Compressor Station Related Spill Totals

All project derived waste will be properly managed, and every effort will be made to eliminate spills. No spills occurred within this reporting period. Ranger will dispose of spill-related materials at the Steele County Environmental Landfill in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, after classification of waste.

This reporting period: 0

Quantity: 7.7925 gallons

Total to date: 1

Total quantity: 7.7925 gallons

Spills To Date				
Spill No.	Date	Segment	Volume	Notes
1	6/19/2019	Owatonna compressor station	7.7925 gallons	Spill was completely contained and cleaned up. Contaminated soil was properly stored in hazardous waste barrels. (hydrostatic test water, and oil)
*The Minnesota Duty Officer will be notified of all spills meeting reporting requirements of the MPCA and/or MDNR. The National Response Center (NRC) will be notified as applicable.				

Willmar C-Line Extension

Northern will construct and operate an approximately 3.1-mile, 24-inch-diameter extension of the 12-inch-diameter Willmar C-line (MNB75602).

Environmental Training

One contractor will construct the Willmar C-line extension. The environmental training totals listed below reflect all training conducted for this project facility.

On-site Contractor: Minnesota Limited, LLC (Minnesota Limited)

Overall Construction Start Date: July 22, 2019

Environmental Training Conducted: This reporting period: 0 Total to date: 9

Construction Status: No work was completed during the reporting period.

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

Stream Crossings and Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Waterbody Feature – WLL-2-S1 (Plan and Profile No. P4-2) – crossed by HDD

Waterbody Feature – WLL-54-S1 (Plan and Profile No. P4-5) – crossed by HDD

Rain Events: No rain events of 0.5 inch or greater occurred during this reporting period. To date, this project has received 16.81 inches of precipitation.

Willmar C-Line Extension Construction Progress			
Activity	Start Date	Completed	Notes
Survey	7/17/2019	7/20/2019	EFN surveyed all aspects of the project
Clearing	7/22/2019	7/25/2019	Clearing is 100% complete
Grading	7/23/2019	8/26/2019	Topsoil removal is 100% complete
Stringing	8/3/2019 (ARO) 8/3/2019 (FBE)	9/20/2019(ARO) 8/22/2019 (FBE)	Stringing of FBE and ARO piping is 100%complete
Welding	8/5/2019 (ARO) 8/6/2019 (FBE)	9/21/2019(ARO) 11/22/2019 (FBE)	Welding of ARO and FBE piping is 100% complete.
Ditching	8/8/2019	11/16/2019	Ditching is 100% complete
HDD P4-2	9/19/2019	10/8/2019	P4-2 HDD is 100% complete
HDD P4-5	9/21/2019	11/15/2019	P4-5 HDD is 100% complete.
Lower-in	8/8/2019	11/20/2019	Lowering-in is 100% complete.
Backfill	8/9/2019	12/03/2019	Backfill is 100% complete.
Civil	10/15/2019	95%	Retention wall at launcher/receiver station east of 134 th Street and security fence around PIG launcher/receiver stations to be completed spring 2020.
Mechanical	8/21/2019	11/13/2019	Mechanical is 100% complete
Tie-ins	8/17/2019	11/30/2019	Tie-ins are 100% complete
Clean-up	9/4/2019	12/20/2019	Clean-up is 100% complete.
Seeding			Due to onset of winter conditions, seeding will be done spring 2020
*Completed totals include either percentage completed or date all completed. All totals are approximate.			

Monthly Projection

1. Retention wall will be completed spring 2020

Willmar C-Line Extension Related Spill Totals

All project derived waste will be properly managed and every effort will be made to eliminate spills. Minnesota Limited has made arrangements with Clean Harbors, Inc. to dispose of any hazardous waste. No spills occurred within this reporting period.

This reporting period: 0
 Total to date: 0

Quantity: 0.0 gallons
 Total quantity: 0.0 gallons

Spills To Date				
Spill No.	Date	Segment	Volume	Notes
*The Minnesota Duty Officer will be notified of all spills meeting reporting requirements of the MPCA and/or MDNR. The National Response Center (NRC) will be notified as applicable.				

PROJECT-WIDE AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND SITE VISITS

There were no project wide agency communications during this reporting period.

PROJECT-WIDE LANDOWNER CONCERNS

No landowner concerns were identified during this reporting period.

PROJECT-WIDE NON-COMPLIANCE CONCERNS

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

PROJECT WIDE RESTORATION STATUS

As previously reported, the Rockford to Buffalo greenfield lateral will resume restoration in spring 2020 per Northern’s winter construction plan. All other project components remain snow covered; restoration percentages will be updated when ground visibility and spring germination allows.

Photos of this reporting period's activities

Carver Compressor Station



Facing south, view of the eastern grassy swale



Facing south, view of the western grassy swale

Owatonna Compressor Station



Facing northwest, erosion control blankets covering the septic mound south of the auxiliary building



Facing west, Erosion control blankets covering infiltration trench north berm

Willmar C-Line Extension



Facing north near MP 1.7, project remains snow covered