



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

May 20, 2020

Via eFiling

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

Re: Northern Lights 2021 Expansion Project
Docket No. PF20-1-000
Monthly Status Report (April 7, 2019 – May 6, 2020)

Dear Ms. Bose:

Pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 157.21(f)(6) of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) regulations, Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) hereby submits for filing in the above-referenced docket its monthly status report for the proposed Northern Lights 2021 Expansion project. On December 6, 2019, the Commission approved Northern's request to use the pre-filing environmental review procedures set forth at 18 C.F.R. § 157.21.

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

Respectfully submitted,

/signed/ Michael T. Loeffler

Michael T. Loeffler
Senior Director, Certificates and External Affairs

**Northern Natural Gas Company
Northern Lights 2021 Expansion Project
Docket No. PF20-1-000
Monthly Status Report – April 7, 2020, through May 6, 2020**

Agency Consultation

Wetland and Waterbody Consultation/Surveys

- Stantec completed wetland and waterbody field surveys for all remaining Project components. Survey status at the end of April 2020 was 100% for Project workspaces. Wetland and waterbody delineation reports are being prepared.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Consultation/Surveys

- Stantec completed habitat assessment surveys for all remaining Project components. Survey status at the end of April 2020 was 100% for Project workspaces.
- Additionally, Northern and Stantec staff communicated with USFWS biologist regarding a field survey protocol for the mapped high potential zone area of the rusty patched bumble bee on the Willmar D branch line extension. Floristic surveys in potential bee habitat are scheduled to begin in May 2020.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Consultation/Surveys

- Stantec completed cultural resource surveys for all remaining Project components. Survey status at the end of April 2020 was 100% for Project workspaces. Cultural resource reports are being prepared.

Tribal Consultations

- No tribal correspondence was sent or received during this reporting period.

Right of Way

- Northern continues to work with landowners to secure survey permission (98% acquired) and has been notifying landowners within the project area that civil and environmental surveys will be conducted on their property. Northern also has been working with landowners to obtain permission to conduct soil bores.

Planning and Engineering

- Northern has determined that the 5.75-mile six-inch-diameter Paynesville branch line loop in Stearn County, Minnesota, is no longer required to meet project needs and has therefore been deleted from the scope of the Project. Northern also has reduced the length of the 24-inch-diameter Willmar D branch line extension in Dakota and Scott counties, Minnesota, from 1.97 miles to 0.79 miles.
- Northern's engineering and design team have evaluated route and facility alternatives for the Project and are making adjustments to the routes based on the results of the civil survey data, new environmental data, and stakeholder comments received to date. An evaluation of crossing methodologies for environmental features also is being conducted. Geotechnical borings at the Hinckey compressor station were initiated at the end of this reporting period. Engineering is incorporating geotechnical borings, new environmental data, and

civil survey into the workspace and HDD designs. Northern has completed multiple internal stakeholders meetings to review the routing and the siting of above-grade facilities.

Upcoming for Next Reporting Period:

- Adjustments to the routes will continue to be made based on landowner input and biological and cultural field survey data.
- Northern will continue agency consultations, as needed.
- Northern will file draft resource reports 1 and 8.
- Northern will file its applicant prepared draft environmental assessment.