



Northern Natural Gas Company  
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402 398-7200

November 18, 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 #6

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 October 31, 2020. Following discussions with FERC staff, subsequent reports will be filed quarterly in accordance with the FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation and Maintenance Plan.

The attached report is broken into two sections: projects in restoration phase and projects completely restored. 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 (CP18-534-000)****Monthly Status Report No. 6****October 1, 2020 – October 31, 2020****PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Northern Natural Gas (Northern) constructed and is operating (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, is listed in the table below.

<b>Authorization Status</b>		
<b>Agency Name</b>	<b>Permit/Authorization/Letter of Concurrence</b>	<b>Status</b>
FERC	Certificate for construction and operation of interstate natural gas transmission pipeline facilities <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>1</sup>	Consultation complete March 2018.
USACE – St. Paul District	CWA Section 404 – Dredge and Fill Permit; Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act <sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>2</sup>	Permit applications submitted September 28, 2018. Permit for the Owatonna compressor station received February 25, 2019. Faribault received April 26, 2019. Carver received May 9, 2019
	Section 401 Water Quality Certification <sup>1</sup>	Authorization concurrent with USACE Section 404 approval. No individual 401 certification will be required.
	NPDES Stormwater Permit <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>1</sup>	Received April 25, 2019.
	State Protected Species Consultation <sup>1</sup>	Consultation complete December 20, 2019
MDNR	Water Appropriation Permit General Permit 1997-0005 <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>3</sup>	Permit issued May 7, 2019
Soil and Water Conservation District-Olmsted County (SWCD)	Grading permit/wetland permit <sup>3</sup>	SWCD waived permit requirement since Northern is obtaining permit from TCPA
Hennepin County	Floodplain disturbance permit <sup>2</sup>	Not required
Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission <sup>2</sup>	Wetland permit <sup>2</sup>	USACE coordinated concurrence December 11, 2018
Olmsted County SWCD	Wetland delineation concurrence for the Rochester project	USACE coordinated concurrence December 11, 2018

Authorization Status		
Agency Name	Permit/Authorization/Letter of Concurrence	Status
Wright County SWCD	Wetland delineation concurrence for the Rockford to Buffalo project <sup>2</sup>	USACE coordinated concurrence December 11, 2018

<sup>1</sup> Permit applications and authorizations apply to both the Rochester Project and NL 2019 Project

<sup>2</sup> Permit applications and authorizations apply to only NL 2019 Project

<sup>3</sup> Permit applications and authorizations apply to only the Rochester Project

## **PROJECTS IN RESTORATION PHASE**

### **Owatonna Compressor Station**

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

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

Overall Construction Start Date: April 2, 2019

**Restoration Status:** The infiltration trench has reached 65% vegetative coverage. The soil over the drain tile west of the auxiliary building has reached 60% vegetative coverage. The extra temporary workspace where the office trailers were parked during construction has reached 50% vegetative coverage. The project received snowfall, and most of the vegetation is dormant. All other areas have achieved complete vegetative coverage.

### **Rockford to Buffalo Greenfield Lateral**

Northern constructed and is operating an approximately 10-mile-long, 24-inch-diameter greenfield pipeline in Hennepin and Wright counties, Minnesota.

On-site Contractor: Michels Corporation (Michels)

Overall Construction Start Date: June 14, 2019

**Restoration Status:** The temporary access road at MP 1.35 has reached 40% vegetative coverage. The road approach at MP 7.5 has reached 50% vegetative coverage. The project received snowfall and vegetation is dormant. All other areas have achieved complete vegetative coverage.

### **Rochester Greenfield Lateral and Rochester Town Border Station (TBS)**

Northern constructed and is operating an approximately 12.3-mile 16-inch-diameter greenfield branch line in Olmsted County, Minnesota. A new delivery point was constructed at the terminus of the Rochester greenfield lateral.

On-site Contractor: Michels Pipeline (Michels)

Overall Construction Start Date: May 22, 2019

### **Restoration Status:**

A landowner impacted the roadside ditch at MP 6.45 on the north side of 126th Street, which has now achieved 65% vegetative coverage. The project received snowfall; however, vegetation is not yet dormant. All other areas have achieved complete vegetative coverage.

**PROJECTS COMPLETELY RESTORED**

**Carver Compressor Station**

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

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

Overall Construction Start Date: April 22, 2019

**Restoration Status:**

Restoration is complete.

**Faribault Compressor Station**

Northern installed and is operating an additional 15,900-HP turbine unit (Unit No. 3) at the Faribault compressor station located in Rice County, Minnesota.

On-site Contractor: Michels Corporation (Michels)

Overall Construction Start Date: April 2, 2019

**Restoration Status:**

Restoration is complete.

**Alexandria Branch Line Loop Extension**

Northern constructed and is operating an approximately 4.3-mile, eight-inch-diameter extension of the MNB72902 Alexandria branch line loop.

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

Overall Construction Start Date: May 21, 2019

**Restoration Status:**

All areas have achieved final revegetation.

**New Prague Branch Line Loop**

Northern constructed and is operating an approximately 1.6-mile, six-inch-diameter loop of the MNB84501 three-inch-diameter New Prague branch line in Le Sueur County, Minnesota.

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

Overall Construction Start Date: May 13, 2019

**Restoration Status:**

Restoration is complete.

**Willmar C-Line Extension**

Northern constructed and is operating an approximately 3.1-mile, 24-inch-diameter extension of the 12-inch-diameter Willmar C-line (MNB75602).

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

Overall Construction Start Date: July 22, 2019

**Restoration Status:** All areas have achieved final revegetation.

**LaCrosse Branch Line MAOP Uprate**

Northern increased the maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) on an approximate eight-mile-long segment of the 16-inch-diameter MNB73201 LaCrosse branch line from its current pressure of 800 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) to 1,000 psig between MP 15.57 in Section 2, T104N, R19W, Freeborn County, Minnesota, and MP 23.61 in Section 1, T104N, R18W, Mower County, Minnesota.

The uprate included relocation of an existing MAOP control valve assembly from its current location at MP 15.57 in Freeborn County, downstream to MP 23.61, in Mower County, Minnesota. One contractor conducted the LaCrosse branch line MAOP uprate and regulator relocation.

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

Overall Construction Start Date: July 16, 2019

**Restoration Status**

Restoration is complete.

**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.

**Photos of this reporting period's activities**

**PROJECTS IN RESTORATION PHASE**

**Owatonna Compressor Station**



Facing northeast, infiltration trench with snowcover and dormant vegetation



Facing south, former office trailer location

**Rockford to Buffalo Greenfield Lateral**



Facing north at MP 7.44, erosion control blankets (ECB) in roadside ditch north of Division Street



Facing south, ECB in roadside ditch, temporary access road south of 37th Street



**Rochester Greenfield Lateral**



Facing east at MP 6.45, landowner tire tracks on snow