

Christel Johnson, FOREST LAKE, MN.

I am going to be affected by the Northern Natural Gas Pipeline Northern Lights expansion project.

Some of the concerns and comments I have are the following:

Why are we expanding natural gas production when we should be looking for alternate forms of energy? I understand that there is a need, but if we keep drilling for oil and gas, and make it readily available, there is no incentive to explore green energy options.

There is a wetland on my property that the current pipelines (2 pipes) run through. I understand, from the information I have been able to get from representatives of Northern Natural Gas, that they will be putting the new pipeline elsewhere on my property due to more stringent rules at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

If this project is approved, I will have TWO easements on my land that the gas company has access to. This will limit what I am able to do with my market farm business, as I cannot put up permanent structures (barns, hoop houses), nor will I be able to build anything temporary, such as garden plots over the easement as the gas company will be able to come in and dismantle anything I do, if they feel there is a need. This will also limit what I wish to continue to do on my property, which is plant native trees, shrubs and wildflowers to mitigate carbon.

There is much diversity of plants and animals here, in part, because I have spent years planting and tending this land to encourage said diversity. Every year threatened BlandingsTM Turtles come here to find nesting spots and to feed. There are suggestions about how to avoid and minimize impact to these turtles in this Minnesota DNR document, Blandings Turtle Fact Sheet:

https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/animals/reptiles_amphibians/turtles/blandings_turtle/factsheet.pdf

Sandhill Cranes nest nearby and bring their young to the pasture to hunt for bugs and rodents. There are also many insects and birds that make this place their home.

The project construction will disrupt the habitat that is currently here and will continue to disrupt or prevent habitat after completion (as stated above, I cannot put trees, shrubs and plants over this easement because they can be removed by the gas company).

In the document from FERC that I received, the section Land Requirements For Construction on page 5, states that "the remaining acreage would be restored [my emphasis] and revert to former uses." When Northern Natural Gas put a second pipeline through my property in the early 1990TMs, my neighbors and I all asked the gas company to please restore the topsoil from where they took it. They did not do this for ANY of us. Our topsoil, where we grow vegetable gardens and trees at the tree farm, was dumped into the bottom of the trench, then filled up with sand. It took several years to get our growing spaces back to what they were before the second pipeline was installed. I am concerned that this will happen again. The gas company can say they will do something, then not do it, and then we, the landowners, are left to fix it.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Christel Johnson

Document Content(s)

130766.txt.....1