

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426
OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

In Reply Refer To:
OEP/DG2E/Gas 3
Northern Natural Gas Company
Northern Lights 2023 Expansion Project
Docket No. CP22-138-000

April 9, 2024

VIA Electronic Mail

Donna Martens
Senior Regulatory Analyst
Northern Natural Gas Company
Email: donna.martens@nngco.com

Re: Notice to Proceed with Construction

Dear Ms. Martens:

I grant your November 15, 2023 request, supplemented on January 30 and February 12, 2024, for Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) to commence construction and abandonment activities for the Northern Lights 2023 Expansion Project, in the above-referenced docket. In considering this notice to proceed, we reviewed and approve the Implementation Plan filed on November 15, 2023, including the requested modifications.

Regarding the Condition 14 variance to conduct horizontal directional drilling (HDD) pullback activities at HDD P4-3 and at P4-2 on the Elk River Branch Line Loop, I conditionally approve the request in accordance with Environmental Condition 2 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC or Commission) September 25, 2023 *Order Issuing Certificate* (Order). In addition to the mitigation measures outlined its January 30 and February 12, 2024 filings, and its previous commitment to offer temporary relocation to residents where nighttime noise from HDD construction would exceed 55 decibels on the A-weighted scale after implementation of noise mitigation measures, Northern must document to the Commission that it provided prior notification by mailing or other means to all noise sensitive areas potentially affected by nighttime noise at these HDDs. This notification should be provided upon receipt of the approval of this variance and fully disclose the location and approximate timeline for nighttime construction.


Based on our review, Northern has provided the information necessary to meet the applicable pre-construction conditions of the Order. In addition, we have confirmed the receipt of all federal authorizations relevant to the approved activities herein.

I remind you that Northern must comply with all applicable remaining terms and conditions of the Order. If you have any questions, please call Paul Friedman, Environmental Project Manager, at (202) 502-8059; or email paul.friedman@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

**JAMES
MARTIN**

James Martin
Chief, Gas Branch 3
Division of Gas – Environment
and Engineering

 Digitally signed by JAMES
MARTIN
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