

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

VIA Electronic Mail

June 25, 2024

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

Re: Approval of Variance

Dear Ms. Martens:

I approve your June 7, 2024 request for Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) to remove a spruce tree on access road AR03 of the Willmar D branch line in Scott County, Minnesota; and to remove three trees within Tract ST-007 on the Paynesville 2nd branch line in Stearns County, Minnesota. Removal of the trees would accommodate for the movement of construction equipment.

Northern conducted bat surveys for each of the four trees that would be removed. The U.S. Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service approved the tree removals, and concurred with the Not Likely to Adversely Affect determinations for Northern Long-eared Bat.

Your request is in compliance with environmental condition 1 of the Commission's September 25, 2023 *Order Issuing Certificate* (Order) in the above-referenced docket. Northern has provided landowner acceptance of these actions.

I remind you that Northern must comply with all applicable remaining terms and conditions of the Order. If you have any questions, you can contact me at telephone number 202-502-8059; or email to paul.friedman@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

Paul Friedman
Environmental Project Manager