



**PRE-FILING REVIEW for the
Cedar Station Upgrade
Docket No. PF15-32-000**

The Project: Cedar Station Upgrade

Northern Natural Gas Company has announced its intention to construct and operate pipeline facilities in support of its customer's growth requirements for natural gas. The Cedar Station Upgrade includes plans to construct approximately 7.8 miles of 20-inch-diameter pipeline looping Northern's existing Rosemount Junction to Minneapolis No. 1 branch line, located in Dakota County, Minnesota.

Most of the proposed pipeline route will loop Northern's existing branch line. The last segments of pipeline are planned to be installed within an existing utility corridor and along a highway.

The pipeline facilities are required to meet a contractual obligation with Xcel Energy, Inc. that

calls for Northern to upgrade its pressure at the existing Cedar Station yard from 400 psig to 650 psig. The increased pressure will be used for incremental electric generation by Xcel at the Cedar power plant

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) is the federal agency charged by Congress with determining whether interstate natural gas pipeline projects, such as the Cedar Station Upgrade, are in the public convenience and necessity. The information below explains the FERC's environmental review process for the proposed Cedar Station Upgrade and how you can get involved early in that process (see page 4 for a flow chart of the FERC process).

The Process: The Pre-Filing Environmental Review Has Started

The FERC is the lead federal agency responsible for conducting the environmental review of interstate natural gas pipeline projects in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As part of this process, the FERC will prepare a detailed environmental analysis for the Cedar Station Upgrade. The FERC will use the analysis to consider the environmental impacts that could result if it issues Northern a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

The Cedar Station Upgrade is in the preliminary planning phase – the precise details have not yet been finalized and a formal application has not been filed with the FERC. However, the FERC has initiated a pre-filing, or pre-application, environmental review of the Cedar Station Upgrade to allow early involvement by citizens, governmental entities, and other interested parties.

The purpose of the pre-filing review is to encourage involvement by interested stakeholders in a manner that allows for the early identification and resolution of environmental issues. During pre-filing, the FERC staff will notify affected landowners, citizen groups, governmental entities, and other interested parties of the Cedar Station Upgrade and will request comments from them. You can make a difference by providing the FERC with your specific comments or concerns about the Cedar Station Upgrade during the pre-filing process.

The FERC staff will work with all interested stakeholders to identify and attempt to address issues prior to the time when Northern files its application with the FERC.

On October 26, 2015, the FERC staff will participate in public open house meeting sponsored by Northern in Rosemount, Minnesota, to explain the environmental review process to interested stakeholders.

The FERC staff will issue a Notice of Intent (NOI or notice) to prepare an environmental assessment for the Cedar Station Upgrade. The notice will be sent to affected landowners, jurisdictional agencies, governmental entities, Native American tribes, citizen groups, local libraries and newspapers, and other interested parties. The NOI will be published in the Federal Register. The notice will provide a description of the proposed Cedar Station Upgrade, discuss the environmental issues identified to date, and request comments or concerns about the project. The notice also will identify the time and location of any public scoping meetings for the Cedar Station Upgrade.

Additionally, any FERC-sponsored scoping meetings or site visits for the Cedar Station Upgrade will be posted on the Commission's calendar located at www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx along with other related information.

Your Input Is Valued

Early involvement by you and others will help the FERC staff evaluate the Cedar Station Upgrade's potential impact on the environment. Please help this process work by providing the FERC with comments and concerns about the potential environmental impact of the Cedar Station Upgrade. You can also contact Northern directly by phone at 1-888-367-6671 with your specific comments or concerns about the Cedar Station Upgrade.

Your comments to the FERC will be most useful if they focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative locations and routes), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Comments that you submit to the FERC during the pre-filing process will be part of the public record and will not have to be resubmitted after Northern files its formal application with the FERC.

How to Share Your Comments and Concerns with the FERC

For your convenience, there are three methods that you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. In all instances, please reference the Cedar Station Upgrade docket number (PF15-32-000) with your submission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert eFiling staff available to assist you at (202) 502-8258 or efiling@ferc.gov.

(1) You may file your comments electronically by using the "eComment" feature, which is located at www.ferc.gov under the link called "[Documents and Filings](#)." eComment is an easy method for interested persons to submit text-only comments on a project.

(2) You may file your comments electronically by using the "eFiling" feature that is listed under the "[Documents and Filings](#)" link. eFiling involves

preparing your submission in the same manner as you would if filing on paper, and then saving the file on your computer's hard drive. You will attach that file to your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on the links called "[Sign up](#)" or "[eRegister](#)." You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making. A comment on a particular project is considered a "Comment on a Filing."

(3) You may file a paper copy of your comments at the following address:

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

How to See What Else Is Filed with the FERC

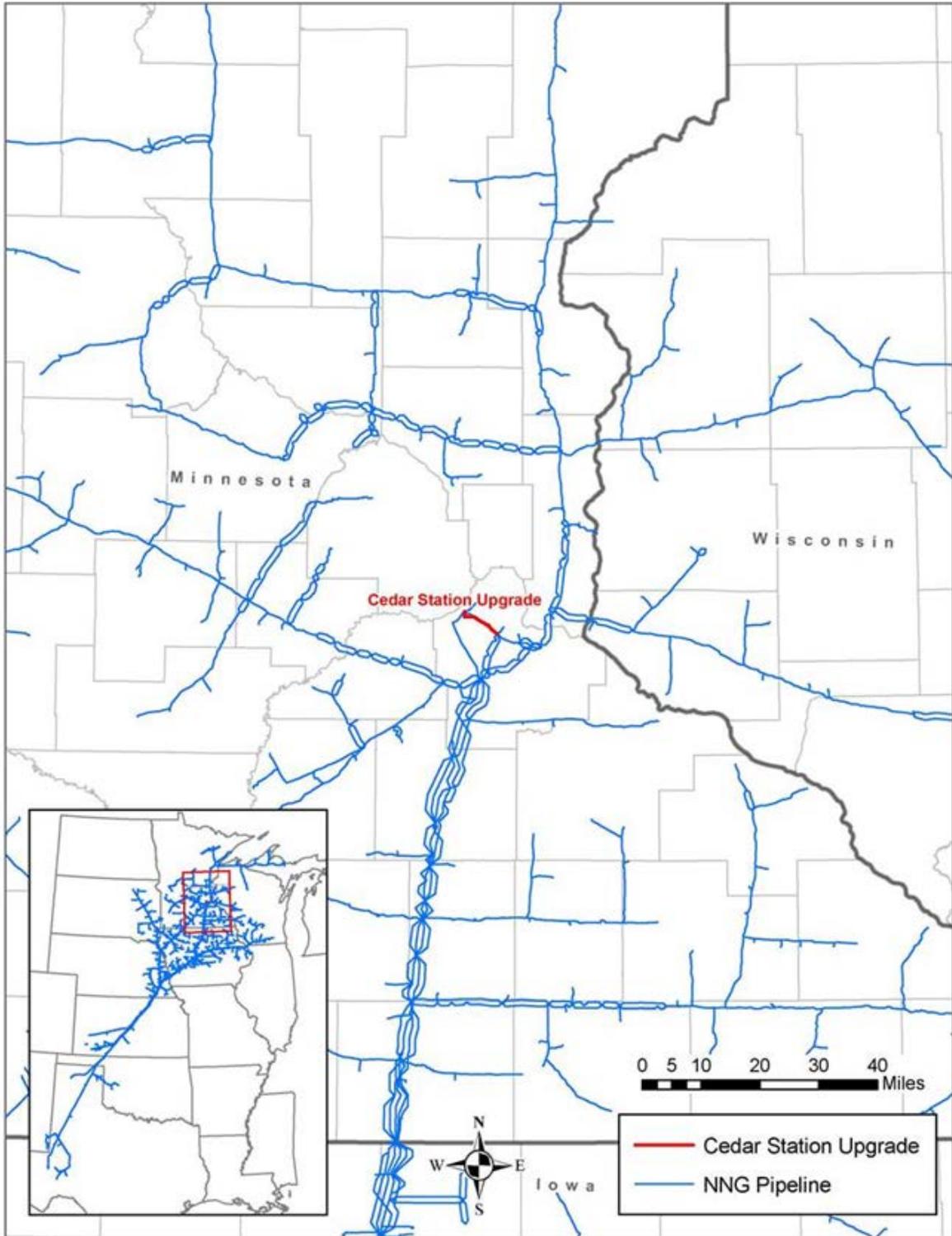
To see what information has been filed with the FERC regarding the Cedar Station Upgrade, go to the FERC website at www.ferc.gov and use the "eLibrary" link. Select "General Search" from the eLibrary menu and enter the docket number (i.e., PF15-32-000) in the Docket Number field. Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range and

follow the instructions. Searches may also be done using the phrase "Cedar Station Upgrade" in the "Text Search" field. For assistance with access to eLibrary, use FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or the FERC telephone helpline at 1-866-208-3676 (TTY contact 202-502-8659).

How to Contact Northern Natural Gas

To request additional information on the Cedar Station Upgrade or to provide comments directly to the Cedar Station Upgrade, you can contact Northern by phone at 1-888-367-6671 or by email at Cedarstation@nngco.com. Northern has established an Internet website at <http://www.northernnaturalgas.com/expansionprojects/Pages/Home.aspx>.

The website includes a description of the Cedar Station Upgrade, viewing locations for project materials and maps, frequently asked questions and responses, and links to related documents. Northern will update the website as the environmental review of its Cedar Station Upgrade progresses.





Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Pre-Filing Environmental Review Process
Cedar Station Upgrade (PF15-32-000)

