

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Antidegradation Decision – Exceptional Resource Waters Northern Natural Gas EMAT Mods

Northern Natural Gas (NNG) has proposed to perform modifications at the Rib Lake branch line takeoff within the Bad River Band Reservation in Township 47 North, Range 2 West, Section 28. Specifically, NNG has proposed to replace the existing in-line inspection (ILI) launch system at the intersection of the Rib Lake and Marquette Lines since the existing ILI launch system is of insufficient length to accommodate longer ILI tools used to inspect the pipeline.

The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa (Tribe) is seeking comments on NNG EMAT Mods project.

#### Project Summary

NNG is proposing to widen the existing launcher site to 40 feet and expand the facility 50 feet south for a new configuration of 130-foot long by 40-foot wide (0.12 acres). NNG stated that the expanded facility is necessary to provide adequate space for the new larger launcher and provide sufficient workspace to safely complete ILI tool runs. NNG is proposing to use two workspaces to complete the project as described below, and access is proposed from Pine Flats Road.

1. An irregular shaped temporary workspace (0.54 ac) (TWS) will be used to complete the replacement.
2. An irregular shaped extra temporary workspace (0.21 ac) (ETWS) will be used for access, equipment staging and storage.

NNG's application materials describe that ground disturbing activities may include the following activities: installation of a temporary access pad from Pine Flats Road to the ETWS; clearing; grading; topsoil segregation; excavation of a trench to a minimum depth of 7 feet and a maximum depth of 10 feet to expose the existing pipe at existing launcher location and at the proposed new launcher installation location; the existing launcher will be removed; the new launcher will be installed; a stopple bypass will be used during the installation and removal to allow for continued gas flow; the excavations will be backfilled; topsoil replacement will occur outside the new permanent facility; rough and final grading will be completed. The area outside the new permanent facility footprint will be seeded. The expanded facilities will have new fencing installed around the perimeter of the facility and gravel will be installed as surface cover within the facility.

Anticipated wetland impacts (as described in the application materials) include 0.573 acres of temporary wetland impacts and 0.054 acres of permanent wetland impacts.

**The Tribe is currently evaluating whether the project meets the Antidegradation Demonstration requirements and the Decision criteria described in the Tribe's WQS and seeks comments on the proposed work and conditions needed to avoid and minimize potential impacts to the water resources.** All comments are considered during the project review. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Water Regulatory Specialist at (715) 979-1370 or [WaterReg@badriver-nsn.gov](mailto:WaterReg@badriver-nsn.gov). Written comments may be emailed or sent by US Mail to:

Lorrie Salawater, Water Regulatory Specialist  
Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department  
P.O. Box 39  
Odanah, WI 54861

**Comment deadline is December 10, 2021**

#### Background

On July 6, 2011, the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians adopted **Water Quality Standards (WQS)**. The Antidegradation policy within the Water Quality Standards protects existing uses and prevents clean waters from being unnecessarily degraded. Under this policy, each waterbody is assigned to a tier that provides a basis for addressing activities that have the potential to lower water quality. Tiers identified in the Tribe's antidegradation policy include: Outstanding Tribal Resource Waters (Tier 3 waters), Outstanding Resource Waters (Tier 2.5 waters), and Exceptional Resource Waters (Tier 2 waters). The Antidegradation Policy holds that **no new or increased discharges or alterations of the background conditions are allowed to Outstanding Tribal Resource Waters; however, a short-term, temporary lowering of water quality may be allowed if applicable Antidegradation Demonstration and Decision requirements are met, as described in the WQS.**

A webmap of the Reservation waterways and wetlands, highlighting the tiers associated with each waterbody, may be found on the Bad River website (under Services>Natural Resources>Maps & GIS Services. The link is found in the Interactive Maps section).  
<http://www.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=6f44c371217e4ee8b5f1c2c705c7c7c5>