

PUBLIC NOTICE

Clean Water Act, Section 401 Certification –Northern Natural Gas Anomaly Dig Project

Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) has proposed complete verification digs along the Rib Lake Branch of the pipeline. The US Army Corps of Engineers is evaluating this project under their authorization.

In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians is evaluating the submitted materials to determine if there is reasonable assurance—with conditions—that the activities associated with the Army Corps of Engineers' potential authorization will be consistent with relevant water quality considerations.

The Tribe seeks comments on its proposed CWA Section 401 Certification of the Army Corps' proposed authorization for this project. All comments are considered during the project review. The 30-day public comment period ends on 03/011/2026.

Project Summary

Northern Natural Gas (NNG) is proposing to complete two verification digs near a Bad River Tributary south of Winks Creek (FID 29087, and FID 32610) to evaluate anomalies identified by the company's inline inspections of the natural gas pipeline. Dig FID 29087 and dig FID 32610 are both located west of Potato River Road along the Rib Lake Branch of the pipeline. The purpose of the verification digs is to allow for the visual inspection of the pipeline to determine if a repair or replacement is needed.

NNG engineering and environmental contractors will prep the access route (including the installation of construction matting and/or temporary span bridges where crossing wetlands and other waters), excavate (including topsoil segregation), visually inspect the pipeline, and complete repairs to the pipeline as necessary. NNG is proposing to use one workspace per dig for access, equipment staging, and to complete any necessary repairs.

The application materials describe twenty-seven (27) wetlands identified within the proposed temporary workspace (TWS) and access routes (AR) along with fourteen (14) waterways. Anticipated impacts (as described in the application materials) include approximately 2.31 acres of wetlands are anticipated to be temporarily impacted by excavation, temporary storage of excavated material, and placement of construction matting within access routes. In addition, approximately 0.04 acres of waterway impacts for the excavation and temporary placement of construction matting. NNG has proposed to use nine (9) temporary span bridges to avoid impacts to waterbodies for access routes. Total ground disturbance associated with project activities is anticipated to be approximately 10.44 acres. All surface waters, including wetlands within the proposed project footprint, are classified as Exceptional Resource Waters (Tier 2 Waters) under the Tribe's Antidegradation Policy and are protected for cultural, wetland, wildlife, aquatic life and fish, and recreational uses among other uses.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the MNRD Water Regulatory Specialist at waterreg@badriver-nsn.gov. Written comments may be emailed or sent by US Mail to:

Kaylee Houle, Water Regulatory Specialist
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Comment deadline is March 11, 2026