

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Antidegradation Decision – Exceptional Resource Waters Northern Natural Gas Pipeline Monitoring Improvements

#### Project Summary

Northern Natural Gas (NNG) has proposed to install eleven (11) mounted posts with attached remote monitoring sensors at existing test stand locations, including one (1) new test stand and remote monitoring sensor, along NNG's Marquette and Rib Lake pipeline within the Bad River Reservation. Nine (9) of the test stand locations are located within NNG's Marquette Branch Line, and the remaining three (3) locations are located within the Rib Lake Branch Line. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve NNG's monitoring capabilities of the pipelines.

The proposed work includes hand excavation activities to install mounted remote monitoring sensors near existing test stands and connect the sensors to existing test leads located below ground. Installation of the single new test stand will require minor excavation using hand tools, including a hand spade and posthole digger, to connect new test leads to the pipeline. Following installation, all excavated areas will be backfilled and restored. NNG will access project locations using the existing pipeline corridor and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). Construction activities are anticipated to begin during the summer of 2026.

Anticipated water resource impacts associated with the proposed project include approximately 0.0004 acres of temporary wetland impacts resulting from hand excavation activities. All surface waters, including wetlands, located within the proposed project area are classified as Exceptional Resource Waters (Tier 2 Waters) under the Tribe's Antidegradation Policy. These waters are protected for cultural, wetland, wildlife, aquatic life and fish, recreational, and other designated uses.

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

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### **Comment deadline is June 6, 2026**

#### 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 web map 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=6f44c371217e4ee8b5f1c2c705c7c7c>

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