

PUBLIC NOTICE

Clean Water Act, Section 401 Certification – Northern Natural Gas Pipeline Monitoring Improvements

Northern Natural Gas (NNG) has proposed to install remote monitoring sensors along NNG's Marquette and Rib Lake pipeline within the Bad River Reservation. The US Army Corps of Engineers is evaluating this project under their Utility Regional General Permit.

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 06/06/2026.

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 both the 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. Written comments may be emailed or sent by US Mail to:

Kaylee Houle, Water Regulatory Specialist
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Comment deadline is June 6, 2026

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