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Docket No.: CP19-500

Secretary
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol
Capitol BLDG
Pierre, SD 57501

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Northern Natural Gas Company

Docket No. CP19-500-000

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED **PALMYRA TO SOUTH
SIOUX CITY A-LINE ABANDONMENT PROJECT**
AND
REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

(September 18, 2019)

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Palmyra to South Sioux City A-line Abandonment Project involving the abandonment of pipeline facilities in Otoe, Lancaster, Saunders, Dodge, Burt, Thurston, and Dakota Counties, Nebraska and the construction and operation of facilities in Otoe, Dakota, and Dodge Counties, Nebraska by Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern). The Commission will use this EA in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies about issues regarding the project. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from its action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires the Commission to discover concerns the public may have about proposals. This process is referred to as “scoping.” The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this notice, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of issues to address in the EA. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please submit your comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC on or before 5:00pm Eastern Time on **October 18, 2019**.

You can make a difference by submitting your specific comments or concerns about the project. Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to evaluate in the EA. Commission staff will consider all filed comments during the preparation of the EA.

If you sent comments on this project to the Commission **before** the opening of this docket on August 15, 2019, you will need to file those comments in Docket No. CP19-500-000 to ensure they are considered as part of this proceeding.

This notice is being sent to the Commission's current environmental mailing list for this project. State and local government representatives should notify their constituents of this proposed project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, a pipeline company representative may contact you about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. The company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable easement agreement. You are not required to enter into an agreement. However, if the Commission approves the project, that approval conveys with it the right of eminent domain. Therefore, if you and the company do not reach an easement agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in court. In such instances, compensation would be determined by a judge in accordance with state law.

Northern provided landowners with a fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?" This fact sheet addresses a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission's proceedings. It is also available for viewing on the FERC website (www.ferc.gov) at <https://www.ferc.gov/resources/guides/gas/gas.pdf>.

Public Participation

The Commission offers a free service called eSubscription which makes it easy to stay informed of all issuances and submittals regarding the dockets/projects to which you subscribe. These instant email notifications are the fastest way to receive notification and provide a link to the document files which can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings. To sign up go to www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp.

For your convenience, there are three methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has staff available to assist you at (866) 208-3676 or FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov. Please carefully follow these instructions so that your comments are properly recorded.

- 1) You can file your comments electronically using the eComment feature, which is located on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to Documents and Filings. Using eComment is an easy method for submitting brief, text-only comments on a project;

- 2) You can file your comments electronically by using the eFiling feature, which is located on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to Documents and Filings. With eFiling, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on "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"; or
- 3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the following address. Be sure to reference the project docket number (CP19-500-000) with your submission: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426

Summary of the Proposed Project

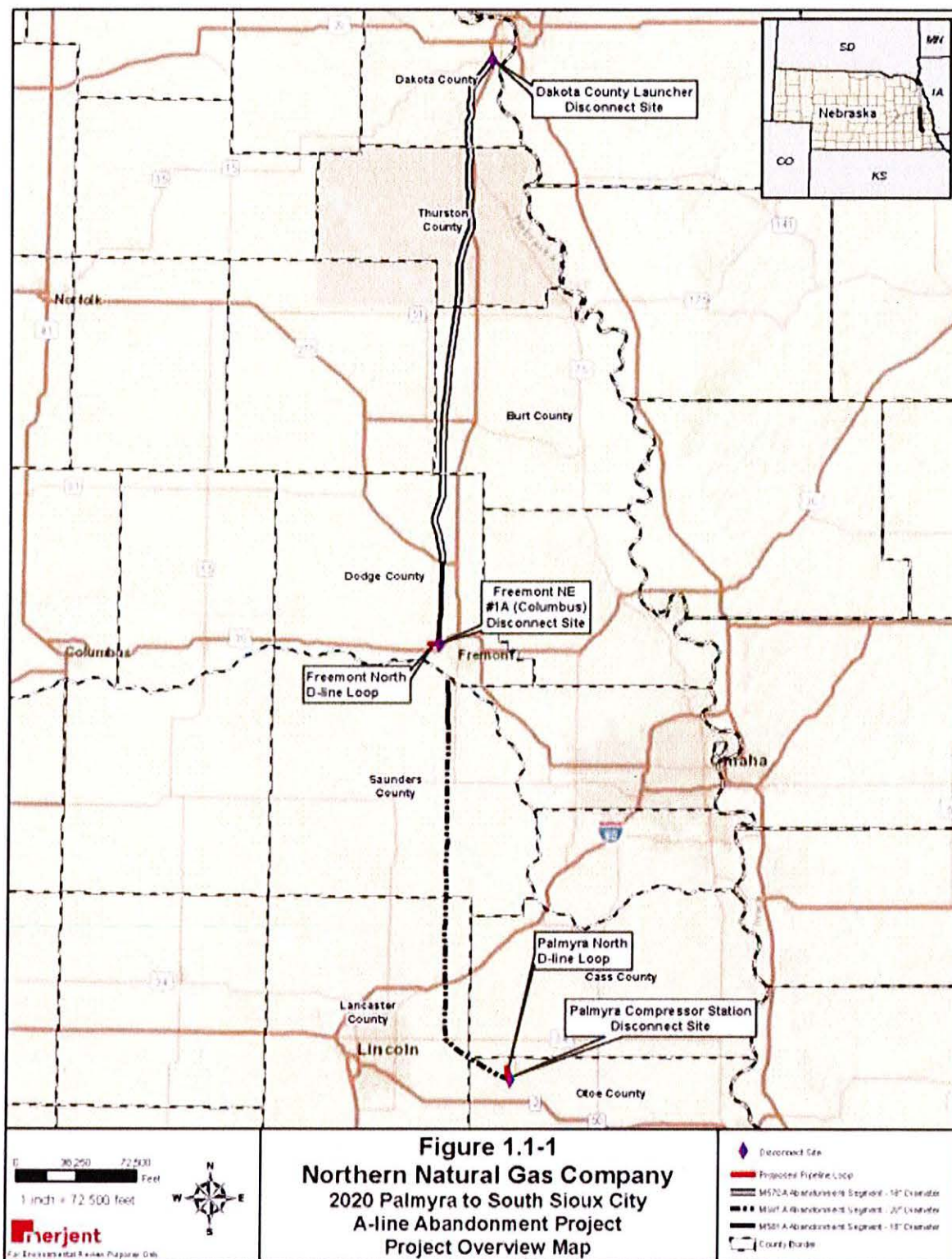
The Palmyra to South Sioux City A-line Abandonment Project consists of the following:

- abandonment of 44.2 miles of 20-inch-diameter and 14.8 miles of 16-inch-diameter mainline in Otoe, Lancaster, Saunders, and Dodge Counties, Nebraska;
- abandonment of 58.7 miles of 16-inch-diameter mainline in Dodge, Burt, Thurston, and Dakota Counties, Nebraska;
- construction of 1.7 miles of new 24-inch-diameter pipeline loop, a pig launcher, and two valve sites in Otoe County, Nebraska¹; and
- construction of 2.5 miles of a new 24-inch-diameter pipeline loop, a pig launcher, and a valve site in Dodge County, Nebraska.

According to Northern, its project would improve reliability and provide for the safer long-term operation of its system. The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.²

¹ A pipeline loop is a segment of pipe constructed parallel to an existing pipeline to increase capacity. A "pig" is a tool that the pipeline company inserts into and pushes through the pipeline for cleaning the pipeline, conducting internal inspections, or other purposes.

² The appendices referenced in this notice will not appear in the Federal Register. Copies of appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at www.ferc.gov using the link called "eLibrary" or from the Commission's Public Reference Room, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 502-8371. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice.



Appendix 2

MAILING LIST UPDATE FORM

Palmyra to South Sioux City A-line Abandonment Project

Name _____

Agency _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

☐ **Please update the mailing list**

☐ **Please remove my name from the mailing list**

FROM _____

ATTN: OEP - Gas 2, PJ - 11.2
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

CP19-500-000 Palmyra to South Sioux City A-line Abandonment Project

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