

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

LOCAL NO. 49, 49A, 49B, 49C, 49D, 49E, 49L
MINNESOTA • NORTH DAKOTA • SOUTH DAKOTA

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To: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
From: Jason George-Business Manager, Int'l Union of Operating Engineers, Local 49
Date: September 3, 2020
RE: Docket Number. **CP20-503-000**

In the Matter of the Application of Northern Natural Gas Company for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Northern Lights 2021 expansion project.

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 49 ("Local 49") which represents over 14,000 heavy equipment operating engineers across Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota I am submitting a formal comment related to the Northern Lights 2021 expansion project.

Specifically, Local 49's biggest concern is that Northern Natural Gas Company has, in recent projects, utilized contractors from Texas that have used minimal Minnesota labor or local union labor, even though there were plenty of highly skilled workers here in Minnesota. We were informed this could be the case for this project as well late yesterday, September 2, 2020. Accordingly, we have submitted this comment as soon as possible to address this issue.

Local 49 believes that the Northern Lights 2021 expansion project not only could, but should, provide Minnesota workers with quality jobs during the project. We believe that a commitment to utilize local contractors would ensure this, and to allow the project to move forward without this kind of commitment would be a mistake. A majority of the economic benefits of this project should go back to the community and the state of Minnesota and not out-of-state workers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jason A. George
Business Manager — Financial Secretary
International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 49