

# Technical Memorandum

**To:** Linda Loomis, Administrator  
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

**From:** Kaci Fisher, Environmental Scientist  
Katy Thompson, PE, CFM

**Date:** October 18, 2021

**Re:** CenterPoint Energy Dakota Facility Station (LMRWD No. 2021-046)

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CenterPoint (the applicant) has applied for an individual project permit from the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) to install natural gas pipelines in the City of Burnsville (City), as shown in **Figure 1**. The applicant's engineer, Environmental Resources Management (ERM), has provided site plans for the CenterPoint Energy Dakota Facility Station (Project or Dakota LP), along with the permit application.

The Project proposes to install approximately 630 feet of 2-inch and 4-inch diameter natural gas pipeline using the open trench excavation method. The Project would disturb approximately 2,600 square feet and include excavation of 267 cubic yards. It is entirely within the High Value Resource Area (HVRA) and intersects the Steep Slopes Overlay District (SSOD), but it is not within the Minnesota River floodplain. Construction is planned to be completed by the end of November 2021, ahead of the winter heating season, as an essential service.

Because the City does not have its LMRWD municipal LGU permit, this project requires an LMRWD individual permit and, as such, is subject to an LMRWD permitting review.

## Summary

Project Name: CenterPoint Energy Dakota Facility Station (Dakota LP)

Purpose: Installation of natural gas pipeline

<u>Project Size:</u>	0.06 acres disturbed; 267 cubic yards excavated; no new impervious surface areas
<u>Location:</u>	11500 12th Avenue South, Burnsville, MN 55337
<u>LMRWD Rules:</u>	Rule B—Erosion and Sediment Control Rule F—Steep Slopes
<u>Recommended Board Action:</u>	Approval

## Discussion

The District received the following documents for review:

- LMRWD printed permit application; received September 21, 2021
- LMRWD permit application fee of \$750; received September 21, 2021
- Authorization of Agent form; dated September 8, 2021; received September 21, 2021
- Site Plan by ERM; dated September 8, 2021; received September 21, 2021
- Signed slopes restoration plan; dated October 15, 2021; received October 18, 2021

The application was deemed complete on October 18, 2021, and the documents received provide the minimum information necessary for permit review.

### Rule B—Erosion and Sediment Control

The District regulates land-disturbing activities that involve excavation of 50 cubic yards or more within the HVRA under Rule B. The proposed Project would excavating 267 cubic yards within the HVRA. The applicant has provided an erosion and sediment control plan as well as the contact information for erosion and sediment inspections. Because the Project will disturb less than one acre, a copy of the NPDES permit is not needed. The Project complies with Rule B.

### Rule F—Steep Slopes Rule

Like Rule B, the District regulates land-disturbing activities within the SSOD and requires a permit for activities that involve the excavation of 50 cubic yards or more of earth within the overlay area. The project proposes to excavate approximately 3 feet in depth to lay the new natural gas lines on the slope, then backfill and restore the slope with native vegetation.

Per the applicant, the project area was previously disturbed in 2015, when the applicant replaced a different gas line on the same slope and successfully used similar restoration

techniques. The 2015 project excavated the slope to a greater depth than the Dakota LP project is proposing and did not encounter perched groundwater or artesian conditions. This suggests that the shallower Dakota LP project would also not encounter perched groundwater conditions that could cause a danger to the slope's stability.

### **Recommendations**

Staff recommends approval of the Project.

### **Attachments**







- Figure 1—CenterPoint Energy Dakota Facility Station Project Location Map



Figure 1: CenterPoint Energy Dakota Station Project Location



**LEGEND**

-  Project Location
-  Dakota Station Facility
-  Public Waterways
-  Public Waterbodies
-  High Value Resource Area
-  Calcareous Fens
-  Steep Slopes Overlay District
-  LMRWD Boundary
-  County Boundaries
-  Parcel Boundaries

**LMRWD Watershed Location Map**

