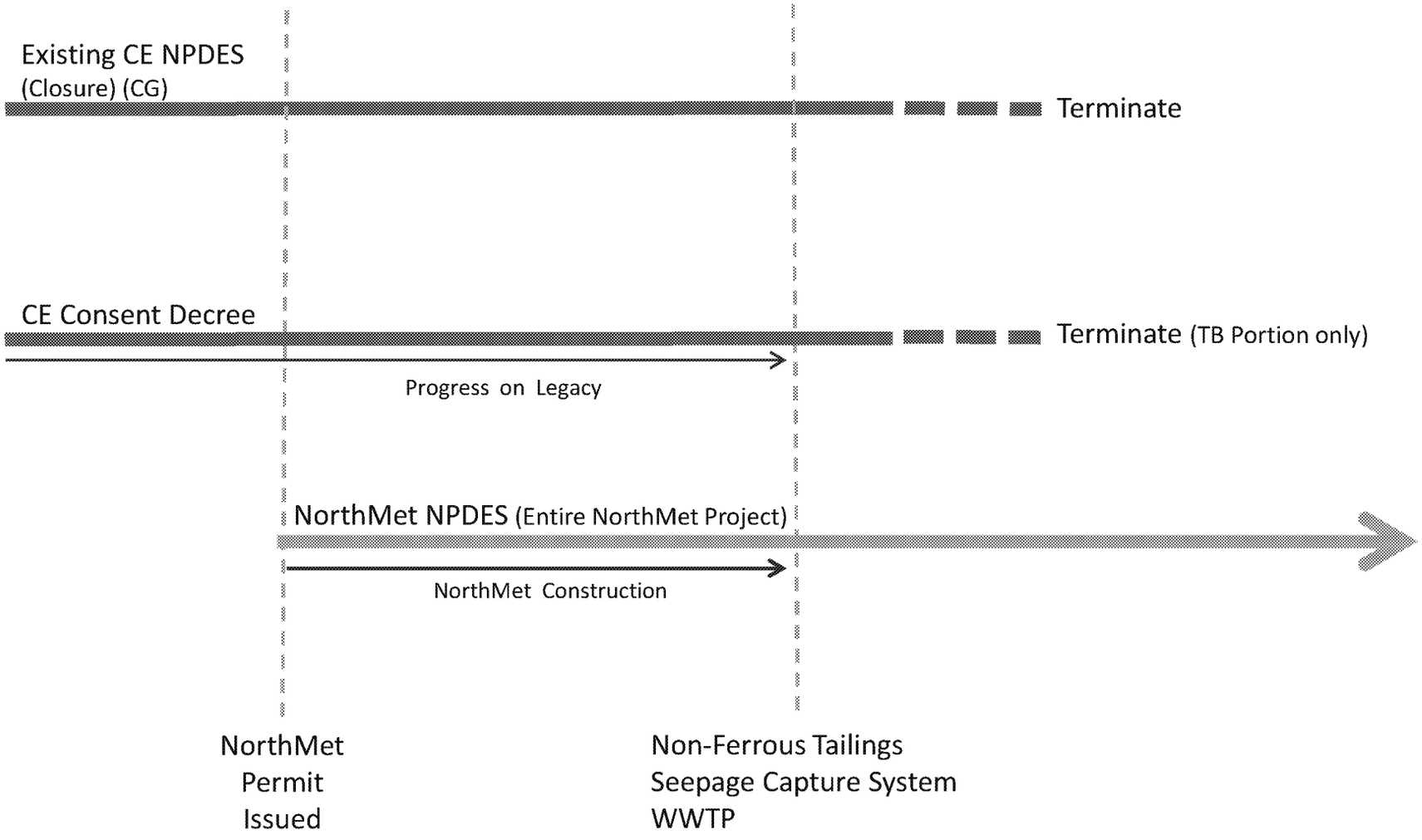
Previously Proposed Permitting Approach (May 19, 2016)

- ‘Variant 1’
  - Issue NorthMet NPDES Permit
    - Authorize Construction of Seepage Capture, WWTP, Augmentation
  - Maintain Existing Cliffs Erie NPDES Permit
    - Terminate Upon Successful Demonstration of WWTP Operation
  - Maintain Existing Cliffs Erie Consent Decree
    - Terminate TB-Portion Upon Successful Demonstration of WWTP Operation

Previously Proposed Permitting Approach 'Variant 1' (Draft):

Key
CE = Cliffs Erie
CG = Corporate Guaranty
NM = NorthMet



Proposed Permitting Approach

- Advantages:
  - Achieves Environmental Compliance Sooner Than Existing Cliffs Erie Path Alone
  - Allows Timely Construction of NorthMet Trench, WWTP
  - Maintains Cliffs Erie Permit and Consent Decree as a Contingency for any NorthMet Delay or Abandonment

Proposed Permitting Approach

- Achieves MPCA Objectives:
  - Is Legal
  - Removes Previously Identified Barriers
  - Provides Added Layer of Regulatory Responsibility
  - Is Compatible with Minnesota DNR Goals and Responsibilities
  - Achieves Environmental Compliance Sooner