



Tesoro Great Plains Midstream LLC  
BakkenLink Pipeline LLC  
4207 Boulder Ridge Road, Suite 200  
Bismarck, ND 58503

March 2, 2016

Patrick Fahn  
Director, Compliance and Competitive Markets  
State of North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: BakkenLink Pipeline LLC  
Case No. PU-10-218  
Post Inspection Report Compliance

This letter is in response to letter received February 3, 2016 regarding North Dakota Public Service Commission's (Commission) February 29, 2012 Order in Case No. PU-10-218 designated to BakkenLink Pipeline LLC (BakkenLink) a corridor and route for the location of a 144 mile underground pipeline in Billings, Dunn, McKenzie, Stark and Williams Counties, North Dakota.

On November 4, 2015 a third party vendor's inspection report to confirm compliance with the Commission's Order. The third party inspector was retained by the Commission to conduct a construction inspection and reported the following:

**Report:** Confirm that topsoil reclamation and reseeding of areas with inhibited re-vegetation have been completed. Rangeland on the National Grasslands and other private pastures is showing less vegetation regrowth and bare ground.

**Follow-Up:** Topsoil reclamation was done in accordance to Section 4.0 of the submitted Construction Mitigation and Reclamation Plan. Prior inspections performed 11/28/12 and 6/19/13 by KLI did not note any deviation from the requirements of this Plan. Vegetation regrowth of planted grasses on the National Grassland and other pastures looks good as some of these areas have alkali patches in which not much grows which is evident when compared to adjacent ground. Some pasture areas have been slower than others to re-vegetate due to heavy livestock grazing. Even these areas have rebounded enough to be deemed restored. BakkenLink will continue to monitor vegetation growth on the pipeline right of way.

**Report:** Confirm by section whether the actions noted in the "BakkenLink Right of Way Grass Reseeding Documentation" (Appendix B of the pipeline inspection report) have been completed or are ongoing.

**Follow-Up:** All actions noted were completed with work starting in August 2014 and continued until freeze up which was approximately mid November 2014. Work restarted spring 2015 and finished



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August 2015. Monitoring efforts along the entire right of way are ongoing and our plan is to address any future issues as they arise.

Report: The pipeline inspection report includes documentation that BakkenLink is working with the Beulah Park District and other entities to determine tree/shrub plantings. However, BakkenLink has not submitted a tree and shrub mitigation plan for Commission approval nor reported on the timing or results of any plantings. While the inspection report included information on tree/shrub planting and planning, this information does not constitute the plan that must be approved by the Commission or describe BakkenLink's efforts on a comprehensive basis.

Follow-Up: Attached is the BakkenLink Pipeline Tree and Shrub Restoration Plan.

In the fall of 2013 BakkenLink contacted the Billings County Soil Conservation District (BCSCD) and the McKenzie County Soil Conservation District (MCSCD). Due to high activity level the MCSCD requested we work with them throughout 2014 for a 2015 planting. BCSCD's activity level was high as well, and BakkenLink continues to work with them throughout 2014 and 2015 for a 2016 planting.

BakkenLink completed planting trees/shrubs in McKenzie County in 2015. The MCSCD will monitor tree/shrub plantings according to the BakkenLink Tree and Shrub Restoration Plan.

In the fall of 2013 and throughout 2014 the BCSCD worked with the BakkenLink landowner listing to determine landowner needs; number and kind of trees/shrubs to plant. Additionally, one landowner requested we plant trees in Dunn County; therefore we are currently working with Dunn County Soil Conservation District to meet the landowner's request for trees/shrubs.

Once we complete the 2016 Billings County tree/shrub planting we will work with the US Forest Service to meet the requirements of the BakkenLink Tree and Shrub Restoration Plan.

Note: Not all landowners wanted and or requested trees/shrubs. Trees/shrubs were planted for landowners requesting plantings. Additionally, many landowners requested more trees/shrubs than what was removed from their property. BakkenLink fulfilled the request for additional tree/shrub plantings.

If there are questions please feel free to contact me.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darren Snow".

Darren Snow  
Area Manager, Pipeline and Terminals ND/MT  
Darren.J.Snow@tsocorp.com