



Public Service Commission  
State of North Dakota

COMMISSIONERS

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March 6, 2017

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ONEOK Partners, LP  
Attn: Geoff A. Sands, Vice President, Natural Gas Gathering and Processing  
Operations  
100 West Fifth Street  
Tulsa, OK 74103

**Re: Case No. PU-11-66, Tree and Shrub Mitigation**

In August of 2015, the North Dakota Public Service Commission Staff requested information as to the Company's tree and shrub mitigation efforts in this case. On October 14, 2015, the Company responded that it would be conducting its tree and shrub mitigation efforts for this pipeline in conjunction with the mitigation that might be required for the Garden Creek Loop project (Case No. PU-15-694). However, the Company has not yet built the Garden Creek Loop project.

The Company's tree and shrub mitigation plan for this pipeline was filed on May 21, 2012 and was approved by the Commission on June 14, 2012. Because the Company has yet to perform the required tree and shrub mitigation, the Commission Staff finds the Company has not complied with the following provision of the Commission's Certification Relating to Order Provisions – Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications:

Tree/shrub replacements shall be inspected once a year for three years, on about the anniversary of the plantings, and, on or shortly before October 1 of each year, a report shall be submitted to the NDPSC documenting the condition of replacement planting and any woodlands work completed. If after three years from the anniversary of the plantings the survival rate is less than 75%, the NDPSC may order additional planting(s).

Please respond within 30 days as to the Company's plan to meet the Commission requirements. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at 701-328-4153.

Sincerely,

Sara Cardwell  
Public Utility Analyst