



November 27, 2019

**Via Electronic Delivery**

Patrick Fahn  
Director, Public Utilities Division  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

**RE: Case No. PU-15-801  
ONEOK Bakken Pipeline, L.L.C.  
2019 Post Construction Inspection Report Follow-up**

ONEOK Bakken Pipeline, L.L.C. (OBP) respectfully submits the following information as an update to its OBP tree and shrub mitigation plans for the above-referenced project.

**PU-15-801 – 8-inch Bear Creek NGL Pipeline, Dunn and McKenzie County, North Dakota (Bear Creek Project).**

Background:

OBP filed its Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan (Plan) with the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) on April 4, 2017 in accordance with the Commission's Order and the Certification Relating to Order Provisions, Transmission Facility Siting with accompanying Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications. The Plan tabulated 10,814 trees and shrubs for removal by construction of the Bear Creek Project that required mitigation plantings at a minimum 2 to 1 ratio (21,628 plants) with a 75 percent success target of 16,222 plants. In order to comply, OBP plans to plant trees and shrubs at up to a 3 to 1 ratio. Due to a high number of landowners that did not want plantings on their properties, OBP proposed to stagger its planting over two years, in 2017 and 2018, working in conjunction with the McKenzie County Soil Conservation District (SCD). A summary of OBP's Plan and the planting requirements are provided in the table below.

**Plan Summary**

Species	Removed	Planned Plantings (3 to 1 Ratio)	Required Plantings (2 to 1 Ratio)	Survival Target (75% of 2 to 1 Ratio)
Trees	2,081	6,243	4,162	3,122
Shrubs	8,733	26,199	17,466	13,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,814</b>	<b>32,442</b>	<b>21,628</b>	<b>16,222</b>

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OBP Update:  
**2019 Planting, Mortality & Survivability Update**

Species	Total Planted to Date	September 2017 Mortality	September 2018 Mortality	September 2019 Mortality	Total Survival
Trees	3,142 <sup>a</sup>	493 <sup>b</sup>	314 <sup>c</sup>	133 <sup>d</sup>	2,202
Shrubs	18,209 <sup>e</sup>	3,261	6,608 <sup>f</sup>	472	7,868
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,351</b>	<b>3,754</b>	<b>6,922</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>10,070</b>
	<sup>a</sup> 495 reported by OBP contractors; 2,647 by McKenzie County SCD staff <sup>b</sup> 122 reported by OBP contractors; 371 by McKenzie County SCD staff <sup>c</sup> 26 reported by OBP contractors; 288 by McKenzie County SCD staff <sup>d</sup> 34 reported by OBP contractors; 99 by McKenzie County SCD staff <sup>e</sup> 11,259 reported by OBP contractors; 6,950 by McKenzie County SCD staff <sup>f</sup> 4,246 reported by OBP contractors; 2,362 by McKenzie County SCD staff				

Collectively, OBP contractors and McKenzie SCD staff planted a total of 12,418 plants in 2017. In 2018, McKenzie SCD reported that it planted an additional 8,933 plants on behalf of the Bear Creek NGL Pipeline. Including mortality from both the 2017 plantings of OBP Contractors and the McKenzie SCD and the 2018 McKenzie SCD plantings, a total of 10,070 plants have survived to date.

In order to facilitate additional tree mitigation efforts, OBP coordinated with the North Dakota Petroleum Council (NDPC) in its “Planting for the Future: Tree Habitat Program” (the NDPC Program), which was awarded a grant from the North Dakota Industrial Commission (NDIC) from its Outdoor Heritage Fund on November 30, 2017.

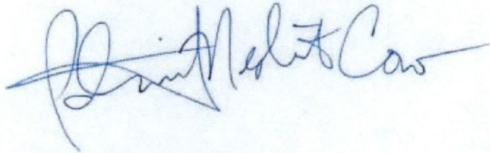
In the Spring of 2018, through the NDPC Program, ONEOK planted 58,000 trees and the first annual inspection was conducted in Fall of 2019 in accordance with Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specification #16. Due to substantial flooding events in the area of the planting, a full inspection was unable to be completed. Of the 58,000 trees planted, 25,550 were monitored with 8,993 surviving. In conjunction with the plantings conducted by McKenzie SCD and OBP contractors outlined previously, this represents a total of 19,063 plants have survived to date which exceeds OBP’s total 2 to 1 survival target.

OBP anticipates that the tree planting by OBP, in conjunction with the McKenzie County SCD staff and the NDPC Program plantings, will exceed the planting requirements for the above project combined. OBP expects to provide additional details about its planting efforts in its next update to the Commission in Fall 2020.

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Thank you for your attention to enclosed materials. Please contact me at 405-893-2045 or, via email, at [Patrick.Coco@oneok.com](mailto:Patrick.Coco@oneok.com) with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrick N. Coco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "C".

Patrick N. Coco, P.E.  
Environmental Engineer