



December 15, 2020

Via Electronic Email Delivery
ndpsc@nd.gov

Mr. Steve Kahl
Executive Director
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.
8-Inch Bear Creek NGL Pipeline, Dunn and McKenzie County, North Dakota
(Bear Creek Project)
2020 Tree Mitigation Plan Third Year Results

ONEOK Bakken Pipeline, L.L.C. (OBP) respectfully submits the following information for its OBP Tree Mitigation Plan Third Year Results for the above-referenced project.

Background:

OBP filed its Tree 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 Specifications. The OBP Plan was later approved by the Commission on April 13, 2017.

OBP avoided the removal of trees and shrubs to the greatest extent feasible during construction of the Bear Creek Project, however, a total of 10,814 trees and shrubs (2,081 trees and 8,733 shrubs) could not be avoided and required mitigation plantings at a minimum 2:1 ratio (21,628 total plants) with a 75 percent success target rate of 16,222 plants (3,122 trees and 13,100 shrubs). In order to comply, OBP planned to plant the trees and shrubs at up to a 3:1 ratio.

Due to the high number of landowners that did not want plantings on their properties, OBP proposed to stagger the plantings over two years in 2017 and 2018, working in conjunction with the McKenzie County Soil Conservation District (MCSCD).

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Below is a summary of OBP's Third Year Results:

Plan Summary

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

OBP Update: See Summary Tables Below

In 2017 OBP contractors and MCSCD staff reported that they had planted 12,418 tree/shrubs on the properties affected by the Bear Creek Project, of which 3,754 died due to the years' severe drought conditions. At the end of the year, 8,644 trees/shrubs survived.

Year 1 (2018): The year began with 8,664 trees/shrubs alive. OBP contractors and MCSCD staff reported that it planted an additional 8,933 trees/shrubs for a total of 17,597. At years' end a total of 10,070 trees/shrubs survived.

Year 1 (2018): In order to facilitate additional tree mitigation efforts, OBP coordinated with the North Dakota Petroleum Council (NDPC) in its "Plantings For The Future: Tree Habitat Program" (PFTF), which was awarded a grant from the North Dakota Industrial Commission (NDIC) from its Outdoor Heritage Fund on November 30, 2017. During the Spring of 2018, OBP through the NDPC Program planted an additional 58,000 trees.

Year 2 (2019): The year began with a total of 68,070 (10,070 plus the additional 58,000 planted by the PFTF) trees/shrubs alive. In 2019 no additional trees/shrubs were planted for OBP. Due to the substantial flooding that occurred, PFTF was only able to inspect and monitor 25,550 of the 58,000 trees that it had planted with 8,993 of those 25,500 surviving. In conjunction with the plantings conducted by MCSCD and OBP contractors outlined previously, at years' end a combined total of 19,063 trees/shrubs survived.

Year 3 (2020): This year began with 19,063 trees/shrubs alive. No additional plantings took place in 2019. During the 2020 fall inspection, PTFT was able to inspect all the original 58,000 tree plantings and found that 33,048 have survived. To date, a combined total of 36,552 tree/shrubs plantings have survived (33,048 trees, 3,504 shrubs).

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In summary, over a 4-year period, approximately 79,351 trees/shrubs have been planted with 42,799 not surviving (majority during severe drought and flooding conditions). ***The count results for this last year in the Program is that 36,552 trees/shrubs have survived. A Required Plantings 2:1 ratio of 21,628 and the 75% Survival Target of 16,222 has been exceeded during the 3-year reporting periods 2018, 2019 and 2020 of the Program (See Summary Tables below).***

	2017	2018	2019	2020	
<i>Start Year w/ # Trees/Shrubs Alive</i>	0	8,664	10,070 & 58,000 <i>See Note 1</i>	19,063 <i>See Note 3</i>	
<i>Planted</i>	12,418	8,933 <i>(MCSCD)</i> 58,000 <i>(PFTF)</i>	0	0	
<i>Died</i>	3,754	7,527	16,557	6,641 <i>See Note 4</i>	
<i>End Year w/ # Trees/Shrubs Survived</i>	8,664	10,070	19,063	36,477	
<i># Not Able To Be Monitored</i>			32,500 <i>See Note 2</i>		
<i>Total # Trees Survived To Date</i>					33,310
<i>Total # Shrubs Survived To Date</i>					3,167
<i>Total Combined Survived To Date</i>					36,477
<i>Required Plantings (2:1 Ratio)</i>					21,628
<i>Survival Target (75% of 2:1 Ratio)</i>					16,222
	<p><i>Note 1:</i> Due to substantial flooding, of the 58,000 plantings by PFTF, only 25,550 were able to be monitored during the 2019 fall inspections.</p> <p><i>Note 2:</i> During the 2020 fall inspection period, PFTF was able to inspect all the plantings that were not able to be monitored during the 2019 inspection period and found that of the 58,000 original plantings, 33,048 have survived to date.</p> <p><i>Note 3:</i> 10,070 OBP Contractors and MCSCD and 8,933 PFTF from 2019.</p> <p><i>Note 4:</i> Of the 10,070 of the OBP and MCSCD 6,641 died in 2020.</p>				

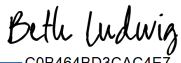
While the shrub survival number fell below and did not match the original Project Tree Mitigation Plan, OBP, with the assistance of the Plantings For The Future Program has captured above and beyond the original tree mitigation replacement requirement. The additional trees planted have created and achieved sustainable plantings appropriate for the western North Dakota soil and growing conditions. In addition, the trees that have been planted will continue to provide long-term benefit to landowners, farmers, ranchers, the community, wildlife, and the environment.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact me at 918-588-7257 or, via email, at Beth.Ludwig@oneok.com with any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Beth Ludwig

Environmental Specialist

Cc: Tulsa Large Construction – Bear Creek NGL Pipeline