



# PLAINS

Terminals North Dakota LLC

September 25, 2019

Mr. Patrick Fahn  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408  
Bismark, ND 58505

RE: ND PSC Case No. PU-16-140 – 24-Inch Crude Oil Pipeline – McKenzie County  
Submittal of Tree and Shrub Survival Report – Fall 2019

Dear Mr. Fahn,

Enclosed you will find our first annual tree and shrub survival report associated with the Johnsons Corner to Dakota Access pipeline project in McKenzie County, ND. Replanting occurred in the fall of 2018. We are supplying our September 2019 findings in the attached report.

Unfortunately Plains was unable to ascertain the survival of the trees planted by Plains, as there were an estimated 1,000 additional trees planted in the same area on behalf of other pipeline projects. It would appear that several other pipeline projects crossed this same landowner and planted trees in a similar area. As such, Plains is unable to determine the specific survival rate of the 24 trees planted.

Based on the present circumstances, Plains respectfully requests permission to end the annual tree and shrub inspect for 2020 and 2021.

Regards,

Shawn Moderow  
Environmental Permitting & Compliance Specialist

72 PU-16-140 Filed 09/27/2019 Pages: 5  
Tree and Shrub Survival Report Sept 2019  
Plains Terminals North Dakota LLC  
Shawn Moderow, P.E.

**Tree and Shrub Survival Report**

**Johnsons Corner to Dakota Access Pipeline Project  
McKenzie County, North Dakota**



Prepared by  
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**ND PSC Case Number: PU-16-140**

**September 24, 2019**

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

Plains Terminals North Dakota LLC (Plains) has completed construction of the Johnsons Corner to Dakota Access Pipeline Project (Project). The Project is a crude oil transmission pipeline approximately 3.5 miles in length that transports crude oil from the Plains Johnsons Corner Terminal to the Dakota Access Pipeline Johnsons Corner Terminal Facility. The Project is located on private land in McKenzie County, North Dakota. Its construction required the removal of trees and shrubs within the Project right-of-way. The Project is under the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (ND PSC).

A Tree/Shrub Replacement Plan was submitted in November 2014 which discussed the approach that Plains took and the ND PSC approved to mitigate tree and shrub removal. The plan was approved in December 2014 and implemented in the fall of 2014 and spring of 2015. This survival report documents the number of trees and shrubs surviving through the summer of 2017. This is the third and final report associated with the required 3 years of survival monitoring.

# 2 Survival Survey

## 2.1 Survival Requirements

Many of the trees and shrubs identified during the pre-construction inventory were avoided, due to the several bores and neck downs along the pipeline route. Approximately 12 chokeberry shrubs were removed during construction; therefore, the total number to be replaced was a minimum of 24 trees based on the 2:1 replacement requirement. Survival requirements will be based on the 24 required replacements.

At the end of 3 years of monitoring (Sept 2021), 75% of the trees, or 18, are required to have survived to meet the obligations set by the ND PSC.

## 2.2 Planting

One landowner within the Project area had trees impacted during construction. Trees were replanted at one location on the owner's properties in the fall 2018. In total, 24 trees were replanted which fulfilled the 2:1 mitigation requirement (Appendix A).

## 2.3 Annual Precipitation

According to National Weather Service preliminary climatological data for Williston, North Dakota (approximately 60 miles west of the project area), 15.08 inches of precipitation was recorded from September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019 (Table 1). This amount is 1.16 inches above average for this time period largely due to the fact that February 2019 was well above average.

Table 1: Monthly Recorded Rainfall at National Weather Service Station in Williston, ND

Month	Recorded Precipitation (inches)	Normal Precipitation (inches)	Difference (inches)
Sep-18	1.46	1.06	0.40
Oct-18	0.76	0.92	-0.16
Nov-18	0.94	0.65	0.29
Dec-18	0.75	0.62	0.13
Jan-19	0.54	0.59	-0.05
Feb-19	1.39	0.39	1.00
Mar-19	0.01	0.71	-0.70
Apr-19	0.72	1.00	-0.28
May-19	1.11	1.92	-0.81
Jun-19	2.66	2.52	0.14
Jul-19	3.23	2.54	0.69
Aug-19	1.96	1.45	0.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1.16</b>

## 2.4 Fall 2019 Survey Results

The plantings were revisited in September 2019. Unfortunately Plains was unable to ascertain the survival of the trees planted by Plains, as there were an estimated 1,000 additional trees planted in the same area on behalf of other pipeline projects. It would appear that several other pipeline projects cross this same landowner and planted trees in a similar area. As such, Plains is unable to determine the specific survival rate of the 24 trees planted.

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