



October 27, 2021

Adam Renfandt
Public Utilities Analyst
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

**RE: Case No. PU-18-399
ONEOK Bakken Pipeline, L.L.C. – Demicks Lake NGL Pipeline**

Dear Mr. Renfandt:

ONEOK Bakken Pipeline, L.L.C. (“Company” or “ONEOK”) received the September 24, 2021 email containing PSC Inspector Stantec’s Reclamation Report (“Reclamation Report”) for the Demicks Lake NGL Lateral Pipeline (“Project”). The Reclamation Report was based on an inspection of the Project during the time frame of September 6 through September 9, 2021 (“September Inspection”). This letter serves as ONEOK’s response to the Reclamation Report and details ONEOK’s efforts to address the articulated concerns.

Section 3.1 CROPLAND:

Observation Points – All Pertaining to Weeds: Stantec reports that the most evident issue pertaining to the revegetation and reclamation of the cropped Right-Of-Way (ROW) appears to be the presence of weed species. ONEOK has continued to work with the cropland landowners on timing and approval(s) for any treatment of these areas.

Observation Points 9090011 & 9090049: ONEOK complied with the Certification Relating to Order Provisions regarding the proper removal and segregation of the topsoil from the subsoil, retaining separation until replacement and during the backfill process. ONEOK is uncertain of how the minor mixing occurred at these two locations and will work with the landowner(s) to address any future issues that may arise.

Observation Point 9090002: ONEOK confirms that the change in land use from annual-crop production to hay land is not due to activity by ONEOK.

October 27, 2021
Mr. Adam Renfandt

Observation Point 90900032: ONEOK confirms that the change in land use from grassland to a small grain production is not due to activity by ONEOK.

Section 3.2 HAY LAND:

Observation Points – All pertaining to reseeding: During the 2020 restoration effort, ONEOK reseeded all hay land areas disturbed by the Project utilizing Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recommended seed mixes and/or the requirement/preference of the affected landowner(s).

Observation Points – All pertaining to annual weeds: ONEOK mowed the ROW in late August 2021 as part of its effort to control weeds. Pending landowner(s) approval, ONEOK expects to reseed the hay land areas in late October/November. The originally planned 2021 fall chemical treatment of weeds will be postponed due to the extreme drought conditions in McKenzie County. Pending improved conditions, ONEOK intends to begin the chemical treatment in Spring 2022 and will work with and receive landowner approval(s) prior to chemical treatment. ONEOK will continue to monitor until permanent regrowth and revegetation is achieved.

Section 3.3 RANGE LAND:

Observation Points – All pertaining to reseeding: During the 2020 restoration effort, ONEOK reseeded all range land areas disturbed by the Project using NRCS recommended seed mixes and/or the requirement/preference of the affected landowner(s).

Observation Points – All pertaining to annual weeds: ONEOK mowed the ROW in late August 2021 as part of its effort to control weeds. Pending landowner(s) approval, ONEOK expects to reseed the range land areas in late October/November. The originally planned 2021 fall chemical treatment of weeds will be postponed due to the extreme drought conditions in McKenzie County. Pending improved conditions, ONEOK intends to begin the chemical treatment in Spring 2022 and will work with and receive landowner approval(s) prior to chemical treatment. ONEOK will continue to monitor until permanent regrowth and revegetation is achieved.

Section 3.4 NOXIOUS AND ANNUAL WEEDS:

Observation Points – 9080012 & 9080017: Canada Thistle was the only noxious weed observed in the Project ROW. ONEOK mowed the ROW in late August 2021 as part of its effort to control weeds. The originally planned 2021 fall chemical treatment of the Canada Thistle will be postponed due to the extreme drought conditions in McKenzie County. Pending improved conditions, ONEOK intends to begin the

October 27, 2021
Mr. Adam Renfandt

chemical treatment of the Canada Thistle in Spring 2022 and will work with and receive landowner approval(s) prior to chemical treatment. ONEOK will continue to monitor until permanent regrowth and revegetation is achieved.

Observation Points – All pertaining to annual weeds: Kochia, Prickly Russian Thistle, Lambsquarter, Curly dock and Curly-Cup Gumweed were all observed in the Project ROW. ONEOK mowed the ROW in late August 2021 as part of its effort to control weeds. The planned 2021 fall chemical treatment of weeds will be postponed due to the extreme drought conditions in McKenzie County. Pending improved conditions, ONEOK intends to begin the chemical treatment in Spring 2022 and will work with and receive landowner approval(s) prior to chemical treatment. ONEOK will continue to monitor until permanent regrowth and revegetation is achieved.

Section 3.5 STREAM/WETLAND CROSSINGS:

Observation Points – 9090036 & 9090047: Despite ONEOK's efforts to address the salinity issue at 9090047 by replacing topsoil and reseeding, these two drainage locations continue to have salinity issues. Pending landowner(s) approval, ONEOK expects to reseed the ROW in October/November 2021. ONEOK will continue to work with the landowner(s) to address any future issues that may arise at these locations and will monitor until permanent regrowth and revegetation is achieved.

Section 3.6 ROADS AND MAINTENANCE:

Observation Point – 9090022: This access road location was observed to be sparsely vegetated with weeds. Pending landowner(s) approval, ONEOK expects to reseed the hay and rangeland areas in October/November 2021. The planned 2021 fall chemical treatment of weeds will be postponed due to the extreme drought conditions in McKenzie County. Pending improved conditions, ONEOK intends to begin the chemical treatment in Spring 2022 and will work with and receive landowner approval(s) prior to chemical treatment. ONEOK will continue to monitor until permanent regrowth and revegetation is achieved.

Section 3.7 AS-BUILT CONCERNS:

Since submittal of the as-built report, Stantec found ONEOK had responded to all requests for information from the PSC.

ONEOK filed an update with the PSC on September 29, 2021, regarding the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan that included information pertaining to its sponsoring agreement with the North Dakota Petroleum Foundation/Plantings For The Future Program and the details regarding project #404 replantings.

October 27, 2021
Mr. Adam Renfandt

As previously mentioned, all reseeding activities were done according to the NRCS seed mix recommendations or specific request and preferences of landowners.

Section 4.0: ISSUES, RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Section 4.1 Vegetation Monitoring: During the 2020 restoration effort, ONEOK reseeded all disturbed areas of the Project using NRCS recommended seed mixes and/or the requirement/preference of the affected landowner(s). As noted by Stantec, weeds have been identified in hay and range land areas along the ROW. However, as noted by Stantec in this Section, successful re-growth and revegetation of native and desired species along the entire ROW has been slow to colonize due to annual weed growth and possibly due to the drought that occurred in McKenzie County during the growing season of 2021. ONEOK continues to work with landowners for approval and expects to reseed along hay and range land areas during October/November 2021. ONEOK will continue to monitor until permanent regrowth and revegetation is achieved.

Section 4.2 Weed Management: Stantec noted that weed management is required throughout a majority of the ROW and the Weed Management Plan should be implemented. ONEOK has continued to utilize the Project's Weed Management Plan and has continued to work with landowners on their preferences for any weed management treatment. ONEOK mowed the ROW in late August 2021 as part of its effort to control all weeds including the noxious weed, Canada Thistle. Pending landowner(s) approval, ONEOK expects to reseed along hay and range land areas in late October/November. ONEOK will continue to monitor the noxious weed locations and continue appropriate treatment of all weeds per landowner requests and/or approvals.

Section 4.3 Soils Access Road and Saline Areas:

Observation Point 9090022: This access road location was observed to be sparsely vegetated with weeds. Pending landowner(s) approval, ONEOK expects to reseed the hay and rangeland areas in October/November 2021. The planned 2021 fall chemical treatment of weeds will be postponed due to the extreme drought conditions in McKenzie County. Pending improved conditions, ONEOK intends to begin the chemical treatment in Spring 2022 and will work with and receive landowner approval(s) prior to chemical treatment. ONEOK will continue to monitor until permanent regrowth and revegetation is achieved.

Observation Points 9090004 & 9090006: These two locations are saline areas containing little to no vegetation with visible accumulation of salts at the surface. Pending landowner(s) approval, ONEOK expects to reseed the hay and rangeland areas

October 27, 2021
Mr. Adam Renfandt

in October/November 2021. ONEOK will continue to work with the landowner(s) to address any future issues that may arise at these locations and will monitor until permanent regrowth and revegetation is achieved.

If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Grant, Environmental Specialist (phone 918-764-5179; email rachel.grant@oneok.com), Beth Ludwig, Environmental Specialist (phone 918-588-7257; email beth.ludwig@oneok.com) or me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Todd McKimney

D9AC1DA0B5D742F...

Todd McKimney

Vice President, Integrated Operations and Capital Projects

cc: Todd McKimney, Vice President, Integrated Operations and Capital Projects
Michael Dailey, Legal Counsel
Wade C. Mann, Crowley Fleck
Rachel Grant, Environmental Specialist
Beth Ludwig, Environmental Specialist
Tulsa Large Projects, Tioga Lateral Project Files