



Public Service Commission  
State of North Dakota

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Good afternoon Paul,

This is a follow up to our phone conversation today. You said you were looking for information about abandoned mines in Section 12, T149N, R100W. This is along ONEOK's proposed NGL route (PU-19-085). The PSC has one record of an abandoned mine called the Salle Bendix Mine in Section 12. The USGS record listed this as a surface mine. This location was most likely errant as there are no visible signs of mining. I did find an abandoned surface mine in the east half of the NE quarter of Section 11. This is probably the correct location of the Salle Bendix Mine. I updated our records to reflect and attached a map. Further, abandoned surface mines should not be much of a concern as abrupt changes in elevation are not cost effective routes for underground pipelines. (Abandoned surface mines are easily identified from the highwall left from the miner's last cut. Mining highwalls look like a cliff.)

I looked closely at historical and current aerial imagery in Section 12 and did not notice any other mines that could impact ONEOK's pipeline route. Although I didn't find any signs of underground mines, many old mines were not well documented. Please exercise caution when developing in areas that are known to have abandoned coal mines.

Thank you for consulting with us. If you ever have questions regarding abandoned mines, please let me know.

Sincerely,

**Matt Fischer**

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