



March 2, 2021

***Via Electronic Mail***

Mr. Steve Kahl  
Director of Administrations  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard, Dept 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

In re: ONEOK Bakken Pipeline, L.L.C.  
Pump Station Additions (Project)  
Dunn & McKenzie Counties  
Case No. PU-20-018

Dear Mr. Kahl,

On behalf of ONEOK Bakken Pipeline, L.L.C. (ONEOK), Merjent, Inc. (Merjent) is providing the following information in response to a letter filed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to the Bear Creek NGL Pump Station case (PU-20-018) on February 19, 2021 (Docket No. 45).

In its letter, FWS recommended that habitat surveys for Dakota skipper (a federally-listed threatened species) be conducted and if suitable habitat is observed, FWS would recommend occupancy surveys to determine if the species is present. The species requires undisturbed (i.e., never tilled/farmed) native prairie grasslands with a specific mix of plant species.

As part of ONEOK's original application to the Commission, ONEOK conducted habitat surveys at both pump station locations in October 2019. The surveys concluded that both pump station locations have been previously disturbed by agriculture and the preferred plant species for the Dakota skipper are not present in the proposed pump station boundaries. Therefore, suitable habitat for the Dakota skipper is not present (see Natural Resource Survey Reports - Exhibit C.2 of Application, Docket No. 1). In an agency consultation letter filed with the Commission on February 13, 2020, FWS agreed with this determination (see Docket No. 6).

Upon review of the February 19, 2021 FWS letter, on February 26, 2021 Merjent (consultant to ONEOK) contacted Jerry Reinisch of FWS. Upon being reminded of the previous consultation for

the Project in early 2020, Mr. Reinisch stated that his recommendations regarding habitat surveys have been taken into consideration and he has no additional recommendations or concerns.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Hartzheim". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name being more prominent.

Paul Hartzheim, M.S.  
Senior Environmental Analyst

cc: Joel Robidoux, ONEOK  
Andrew Hackler, ONEOK  
Deborah Perry, ONEOK  
Michael Dailey, ONEOK  
Victor Schock, NDPSC