



United States Department of Agriculture



April 27, 2022

Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

Bismarck State Office  
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Bismarck, ND  
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Jaimee Antognazzi  
Keitu Engineers & Consultants, Inc.  
1403 27<sup>th</sup> St NW  
Mandan, ND 58554

Dear Ms. Antognazzi:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has reviewed your letter dated April 19, 2022 concerning the Bridger 16" Crude Oil Pipeline in McKenzie and Golden Valley Counties, of North Dakota.

NRCS has a major responsibility with the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) in documenting conversion of farmland (i.e., Prime, Statewide Importance and/or Local Importance) to non-agricultural use when federal funding is utilized. It appears the Bridger pipeline is not supported by federal funding; therefore, FPPA does not apply and no further action is needed.

#### Wetlands

The Wetland Conservation Provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act, as amended, provide that if a USDA participant converts a wetland for the purpose or to have the effect of making agricultural production possible, loss of USDA benefits could occur. NRCS has developed the following guidelines for the installation of permanent structures where wetlands occur. If these guidelines are followed the impacts to the wetland will be considered minimal allowing USDA participants to continue to receive USDA benefits. Following are the requirements:

- Disturbance to the wetland must be temporary.
- No drainage of wetland is allowed (temporary or permanent).
- Mechanized landscaping necessary for installation is kept to a minimum and preconstruction contours are maintained.
- Temporary side cast material must be placed in such a manner not to be dispersed in the wetland.
- All trenches must be backfilled to the original wetland bottom elevation.

Potentially impacted USDA participants that wish to request a certified wetland determination can be directed to the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request a Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELCS) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification (AD-1026) or they may contact Darrick Ystaas, Designated Conservationist, NRCS, Minot, North Dakota at (701) 852-5434, Ext. 125, for information about conservation compliance provisions related to the project.

NRCS recommends that impacts to wetlands be avoided.

*Helping People Help the Land*

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Exhibit 6 – Natural Resources Conservation  
Services Correspondence, April 27, 2022

Bridger Pipeline LLC

If you have additional questions pertaining to FPPA, please contact Wade Bott, State Soil Scientist, NRCS, Bismarck, North Dakota, at (701) 530-2021 or email to [wade.bott@usda.gov](mailto:wade.bott@usda.gov).

**WADE BOTT**

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WADE D. BOTT  
State Soil Scientist