

# Reclamation and Revegetation

## Inspection Report

ONEOK Bakken Pipeline, LLC

Spring Creek II Pump Station

McKenzie County, North Dakota

ND PSC Case No. PU-22-164

### Prepared for:

North Dakota Public Service Commission  
Public Utilities Division  
State Capitol  
600 East Boulevard – Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

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Reclamation and Revegetation Inspection Report  
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## Executive Summary

The State of North Dakota, acting through its North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission), Division of Public Utilities, has contracted Keitu Engineers & Consultants, Inc. (Keitu) to perform consulting services for Reclamation and Revegetation Inspection. This report addresses the Orders established by the Commission and issues in Case No. PU-22-164.

The ONEOK Bakken Pipeline, LLC Spring Creek II Pump Station and its associated facilities (Project) is designed to add additional natural gas liquids (NGL) capacity to the Demicks Lake Pipeline. The Project is located in McKenzie County, North Dakota.

The Project consists of the addition of a pump station and associated facilities consisting of three 5,000 horsepower electrically driven pumps located adjacent to the existing Demicks Lake Pipeline. The Project is expected to add approximately 50,000 barrels of capacity increasing the NGL-pipeline to 300,000 barrels per day of the 400,000 barrels per day capacity permitted.

The purpose of the Reclamation and Revegetation Inspection is to ensure the Project was constructed in compliance with the siting laws, rules, and the applicable Commission Order for the Project. Prior to the inspection, Keitu reviewed all Project-related documents necessary to verify reclamation and revegetation aspects during the site visit.

The site was visually inspected on October 18, 2024 by Kathleen Spilman, P.E. of the Keitu staff. At the time of the visit, the Project area was well-maintained, secured, and in good condition and is as near as practical to pre-construction surface topography conditions. All areas were reseeded with suitable plants for sufficient surface cover. The area appeared to be consistent with pre-construction conditions.

No deficiencies were noted relating to the Reclamation and Revegetation Inspection.

One follow-up item from the As-Built Inspection is recommended to validate compliance with Order #8 relative of ND Department of Environmental Quality (ND DEQ) Air Permitting requirements.

## Introduction

The Project was approved in June 29, 2022 and construction on July 7, 2022. The Project is operated ONEOK Bakken Pipeline, LLC. The ONEOK Bakken Pipeline, LLC Spring Creek II Pump Station and its associated facilities (Project) is designed to add additional natural gas liquids (NGL) capacity to the Demicks Lake Pipeline. The Project is located in Williams County, North Dakota.

The Project consists of the addition of a pump station and associated facilities consisting of three 5,000 horsepower electrically driven pumps located adjacent to the existing Demicks Lake Pipeline. The Project is expected to add approximately 50,000 barrels of capacity increasing the NGL-pipeline to 300,000 barrels per day of the 400,000 barrels per day capacity permitted.

The Project is under the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission, which issued its First Amended Route Permit No. 219 and Certificate of Corridor Compatibility No. 209 for Case No. PU-22-164 on June 29, 2022.

## Purpose and Scope of Inspection

The North Dakota Energy Conversion and Transmission Facility Act (North Dakota Century Code Chapter 49-22) authorizes the Public Service Commission to determine a location, construction, and operation of jurisdictional energy conversion and transmission facilities to produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and welfare of the citizens of North Dakota. Field inspections ensure the Project is constructed in compliance with siting laws, rules, and the applicable Commission Order Amending Certificate and Permit (Order).

The Commission retained Keitu Engineers & Consultants, Inc. (Keitu) to complete a Reclamation and Revegetation Inspection of the Project. The inspection process included a review of the Consolidated Application for Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit (Application), Order, Certification Relating to Order Provisions (Certification), and other applicable documents to determine Project-specific siting and construction requirements; a site visit and inspection of facilities; documentation of compliance; and a report summarizing findings. This report includes, but is not limited to, site visit observations, documentation of compliance deficiencies, and a summary site condition.

## Methods

Keitu reviewed North Dakota siting laws and rules, the Application, Certification, and the Order for the Project to identify what Project-specific documentation was required for compliance. Keitu then reviewed Project documents in the PSC Online Case Search to identify those siting laws, rules, and Application and Order assertions that already had written verification, those that still required documentation, and those that required physical site verification.

Kathleen Spilman, P.E. of the Keitu staff visited the Project area on October 18, 2024 to visually inspect the site. Digital photographs were taken showing typical conditions. The Project was reportedly in operation at the time of visit.

## As-Built Inspection Follow-Up

An “As-Built” inspection was conducted on October 18, 2024. During this inspection it was deemed by Keitu staff that the Project was constructed in compliance with the siting laws, siting rules, and applicable Commission Orders.

The Project site was in good condition. Some weeds were noted with in the new rock bed ground cover installed across southeast portion of the facility. These areas are typically controlled during regularly scheduled herbicide application. No noxious weed varieties were noted. Eroded rills along the east fence line had been refilled to the adjacent surface level with additional rock. Vegetated areas directly adjacent to the perimeter fence line were adequately controlled.

Based on a review of historical aerial photography dated April 20, 2020 and the Topsoil Inspection site visit performed July 7, 2022, no existing trees were at risk during construction.

However, at least 2 flares are evident at the site. Even recognizing the pump drivers are electric with no assigned air emissions, the existence of high pressure NGL fluids and associated fugitive emissions plus the two flares equipment and/or equipment pressure release valves suggest even with de minimus emissions, the Project may require registration as a minor source with the ND Department of Environmental Quality (ND DEQ) similar to oil production wells. A check of records in North Dakota’s Combined Regulatory Information System (CERLIS-ND) was unable to locate a permit to construct or permit to operate or site registration.

One follow-up item is recommended to validate compliance with Order #8 relative of ND Department of Environmental Quality Air Permitting requirements.

## Observations

At the time of the reclamation and revegetation inspection site visit on October 18, 2024, the Project area was well-maintained, with well vegetated surface soils and topography restored as near as practical to pre-construction conditions.

Vegetative cover had been well-established along the areas adjacent to the site perimeter fences along both the pump station and new valve stations as well as the construction laydown areas to the west and the north of the site. Good vegetative cover has been established with native grasses and forbs along the entire length of the revised pipeline right-of-way (ROW).

Several silt fences remained in place along the westside drainage ditch along 147<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW (i.e., county road along east perimeter) within waist-high grass vegetative cover.

Pipeline markers were evident at appropriate locations along the fence lines. Barbed-wire fences were intact. No damage to existing roads or fence line gates were apparent.

Photographs depicting conditions in several areas are provided for reference.

## Conclusion

Overall, the Project appeared to be constructed minimal impacts to the surrounding environment. The Project site is in good condition. Ground vegetative cover density was generally at pre-construction conditions.

No deficiencies were noted. No additional follow-up activities are recommended.

## Management Review

The services performed by Keitu and its staff for this project have been conducted in a manner consistent with the degree of care and technical skill appropriately exercised by professionals currently practicing in this area under similar time and budget constraints.

Recommendations and findings contained in this report represent our professional judgment and are based upon available information and technically accepted practices at the present time and location. Other than this, no warranty is implied or expressed.



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Jaimee Antognazzi, Operations Manager

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10/31/2024

Date

**Report Photo #1: Station Sign along Main Gate**



**Report Photo #2: Mid Portion of ROW Adjacent to Wetlands with Established Vegetation**



**Report Photo #3:** Reclaimed Pipeline ROW east of Pump Station to New Valve Station



**Report Photo #4:** Vegetative Cover of Mowed Former Laydown Areas Outside of Fence



**Report Photo #5:** Restored Vegetative Cover on West Side of Station



**Report Photo #6:** Restored Vegetative Cover on North Side of Station



**Report Photo #7:** North Portion of Pipeline ROW with Revegetation Apparent



**Report Photo #8:** Silt Fence Remaining in East of Fence Line West of County Road

