

September 17, 2025

Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Ave – Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Please find enclosed two hardcopies of the topsoil inspection for the ONEOK Bakken 6-inch NGL Pipeline Project, Case No. PU-25-172. If you have questions, please contact Zach Peterson at 701-341-1078.

Sincerely,



Zach Peterson
Project Manager

Enclosures: Construction Inspection Report PU-25-172 (2 hardcopies)



ONEOK Bakken NGL Pipeline

Williams County, North Dakota

Topsoil Inspection Report

Docket Number: PU-25-172

Prepared for North Dakota Public Service Commission



September 2025

Topsoil Inspection Report

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Contents

1	Executive Summary	2
2	Background and Scope	3
2.1	Introduction	3
2.2	Regulatory Purpose and Need	3
2.3	Scope of Work	3
3	Findings of Site Inspection.....	4
3.1	Methods	4
3.2	On-Site Inspection Observations.....	4
4	Issues to Resolve and Recommendations.....	4
5	Signatures	6

List of Appendices

Appendix A Photo Log and Observation Maps

1 Executive Summary

The North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) retained Meadowlark Environmental, LLC (Meadowlark) to complete topsoil inspection for the construction of the ONEOK Bakken 6-inch NGL Pipeline (Project) in Williams County, North Dakota (ND), constructed by ONEOK Bakken Pipeline, LLC (ONEOK). The purpose of the inspection is to ensure the project is constructed in compliance with siting laws and rules and the applicable PSC Orders for the project.

The topsoil inspection was conducted on September 5, 2025, by Zach Peterson with Meadowlark Environmental, LLC. The inspection occurred during the start of construction activities to observe the removal of topsoil and segregation from subsoil. Construction began with the mowing of vegetation and topsoil removal on the north end of the project near the Argent Midstream County Line Gas Plant located in Section 24, T158N, R95W in Williams County, North Dakota. The area is located in a relatively flat rural area with intermittent streams and pothole wetlands amongst agricultural land and oil and gas facilities. A single bulldozer was used to clear topsoil from the pipeline ROW. The vegetation along the ROW was mowed prior to topsoil removal. The bulldozer scraped the topsoil in incremental layers until the subsoil layer began to appear and pushed the removed topsoil into a earthen berm along the north side of the ROW. The equipment operators demonstrated the necessary skill for topsoil removal and knowledge of topsoil segregation requirements. No subsoil was being removed for the construction of the pipeline. No issues were observed during the inspection.

2 Background and Scope

2.1 Introduction

The Tioga Extension Project (Project) is an approximate 7.6-mile-long, 6-inch diameter steel natural gas liquids (NGL) pipeline in Williams County, North Dakota. The Project is being constructed by ONEOK Bakken Pipeline and extends from the Argent Midstream County Line Gas Plant (County Line Plant) located in Section 24, T158N, R95W to the ONEOK meter site within the Hess Tioga Plant located in Section 23, T157N, R95W in Williams County, North Dakota. The Project is being constructed to provide take-away capacity for Y-grade NGLs (a mixture of ethane, propane, butanes, iso-butane mix, pentanes, and natural gasoline). Construction of the Project will provide firm, reliable service of up to 40,000 barrels of NGLs per day and will provide a critical link between the County Line Plant and the Hess Tioga Meter Site and NGL pipeline system for delivery to facilities in the Mid-Continent and Gulf Coast for additional processing prior to distribution to various markets. The Project is expected to be completed in 2025.

The Project is under the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC), which issued its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order, Corridor Compatibility No. 243, and Route Permit No. 254 on August 13, 2025, for Case No. PU-25-172.

2.2 Regulatory Purpose and Need

The North Dakota Energy Conversion and Transmission Facility Act (North Dakota Century Code Chapter 49-22) charges the Public Service Commission with determining that the location, construction, and operation of jurisdictional energy conversion and transmission facilities will produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and the welfare of citizens of North Dakota. Inspections during construction ensure that such projects are built in compliance with the siting laws (North Dakota Century Code Chapter 49-22) and rules (North Dakota Administrative Code Article 69-06) and the applicable Commission Orders.

2.3 Scope of Work

The North Dakota Public Service Commission retained Meadowlark to perform a topsoil inspection for the Project. Meadowlark's scope of work was to complete and document an on-site inspection during the start of construction to verify that topsoil was being removed and segregated from subsoil in compliance with the siting laws, rules, and applicable Commission Orders. This report contains site visit observations and a summary of findings and issues that should be addressed for the Project.

3 Findings of Site Inspection

3.1 Methods

Zach Peterson, Project Manager/Field Inspector for Meadowlark visited the Project site on September 5, 2025, to conduct the topsoil inspection. Dan Gilreath, Construction Coordinator for ONEOK accompanied Mr. Peterson during the inspection. The inspection occurred between 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Construction activities for the Project were commencing at the time of the inspection.

Mr. Peterson observed equipment operators removing topsoil along a relatively flat portion of ground near the County Line Plant to document that operators demonstrated the proper skill and techniques for removing topsoil and segregating the topsoil from any subsoil removed. The ability of operators to identify changes in soil color and characteristics as well as understanding the rules and regulations for topsoil removal were also noted. Photos (iPhone 15) were taken with a GIS overlay and without the overlay at observation points to record the geographic locations of the observation points visited during the inspection.

3.2 On-Site Inspection Observations

Mr. Peterson met Mr. Gilreath at the County Line Station where construction for the Project was commencing with the removal of topsoil where the pipeline connects with the County Line Station at the northern terminus of the Project in Section 24, T158N, R95W in Williams County, North Dakota. A single bulldozer removed topsoil along the ROW in incremental layers until the subsoil layer began to appear. Topsoil depth ranged from 7 to 10 inches along the differing contours of the Project ROW, with the shallower depth found on the uphill slope and the deeper topsoil in the lowest lying areas. As the topsoil was removed, the equipment operator piled the removed topsoil into an earthen berm running along the north side of the ROW. No subsoil was being removed and the topsoil was properly segregated from the exposed subsoil layer. Silt fence will be placed along the downhill side of the topsoil piles to prevent offsite runoff from the topsoil piles. When the steel pipe is ditched into the ground, the subsoil will be removed and replaced as the pipe is laid along the ROW and will not be mixed with the topsoil piles along the edge of the ROW.

Equipment operators demonstrated the proper understanding of the rules for topsoil and subsoil removal and how to properly identify the change in soil characteristics between the topsoil and subsoil layers. Multiple passes with the equipment were used over the same ground to remove the topsoil in increments until the subsoil became visible. Topsoil removal was being conducted in compliance with the Commission's Order.

4 Issues to Resolve and Recommendations

Topsoil segregation was noted to be acceptable in the areas observed. Equipment operators were reminded to strip soil, where it existed, down to a maximum of 12 inches or to the depth where subsoil appeared. Equipment operators have demonstrated proficiency in topsoil removal and segregation in compliance with the Commission's Order.

Potential Issues	Recommendations
SWPPP/BMPs	Silt fence and straw waddles along the perimeter of the topsoil piles will need to be monitored regularly and replaced when necessary.

5 Signatures

The services performed by Meadowlark staff for this project have been conducted in a manner consistent with the technical skill and degree of care exercised by professionals currently practicing in this discipline under similar time and budget constraints. Findings and recommendations represent our professional judgement and are based on available information and accepted practices. No warranty is implied or expressed beyond this.



Zach Peterson, Inspector

9/17/2025

Date

Appendices

Photo Log and Observation Maps

On-Site Photographs

ONEOK Bakken 6-inch NGL Pipeline Project- Williams County

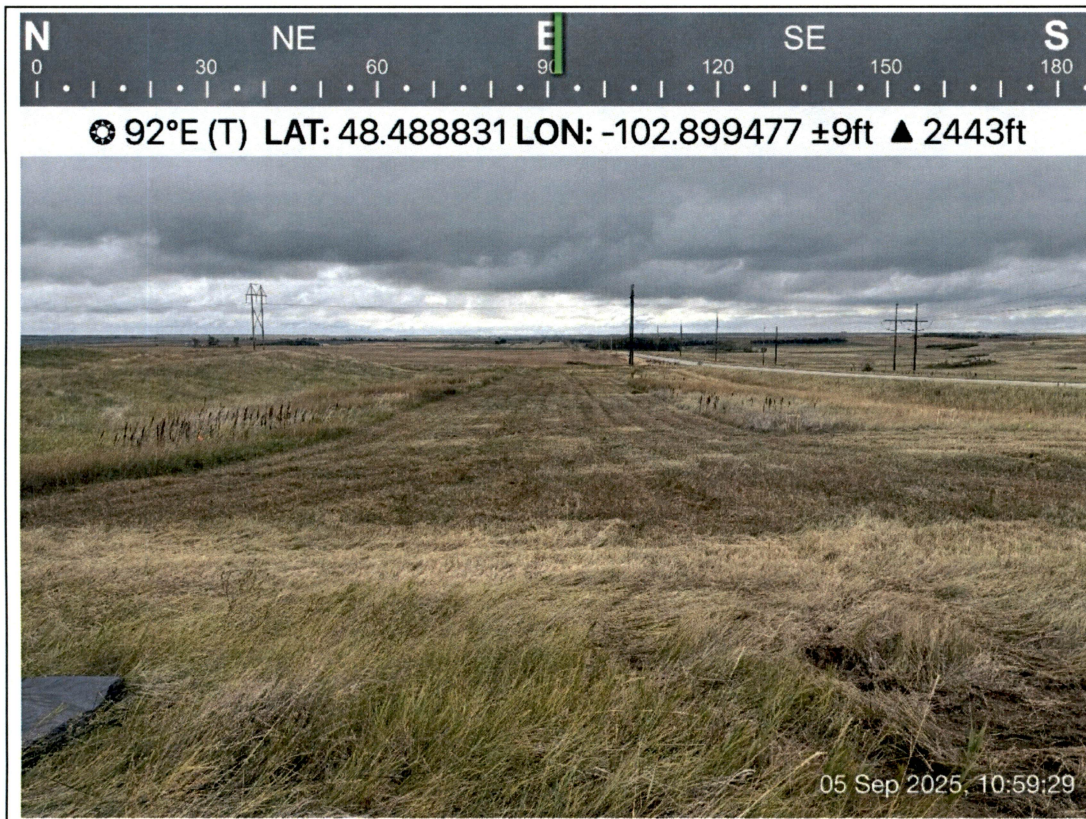


Photo #: 1

Direction: East

Description: Topsoil inspection area with vegetation mowed prior to topsoil removal

Observer: Zach Peterson

Date: 9/5/2025

Latitude: 48.488831

Longitude: -102.899477

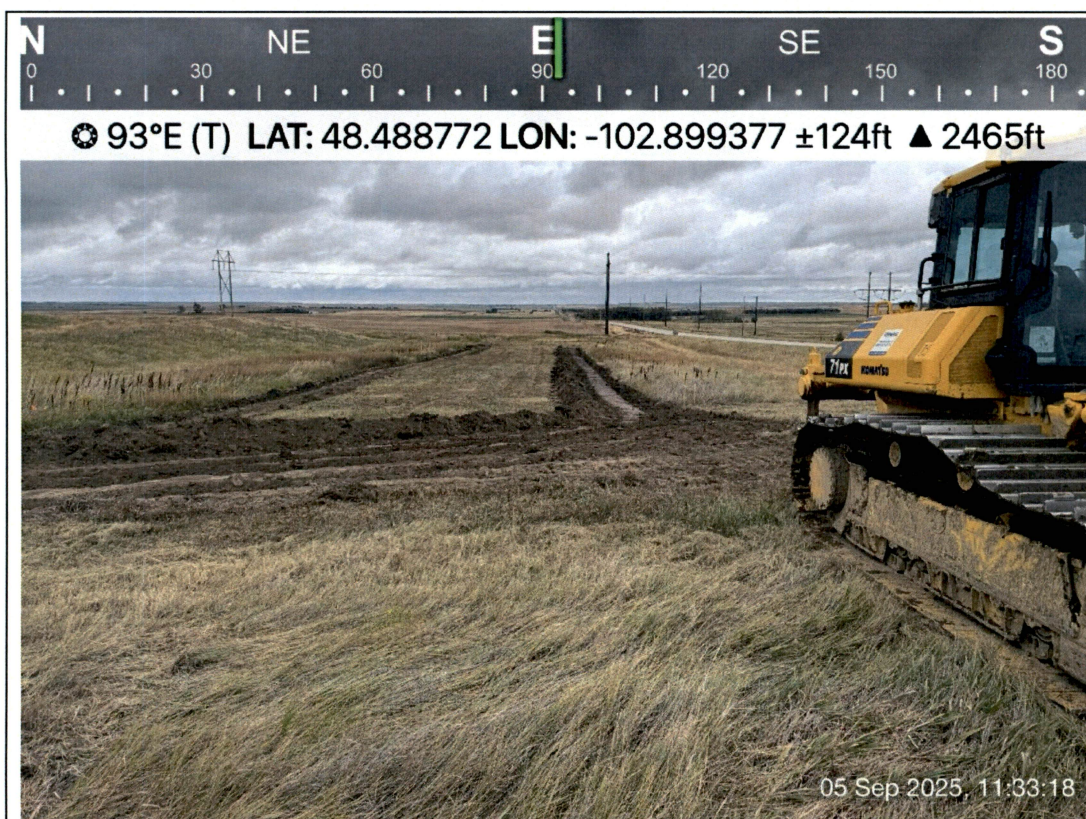


Photo #: 2

Direction: East

Description: Dozer beginning removal of topsoil.

Observer: Zach Peterson

Date: 9/5/2025

Latitude: 48.488772

Longitude: -102.899377

On-Site Photographs

ONEOK Bakken 6-inch NGL Pipeline Project- Williams County

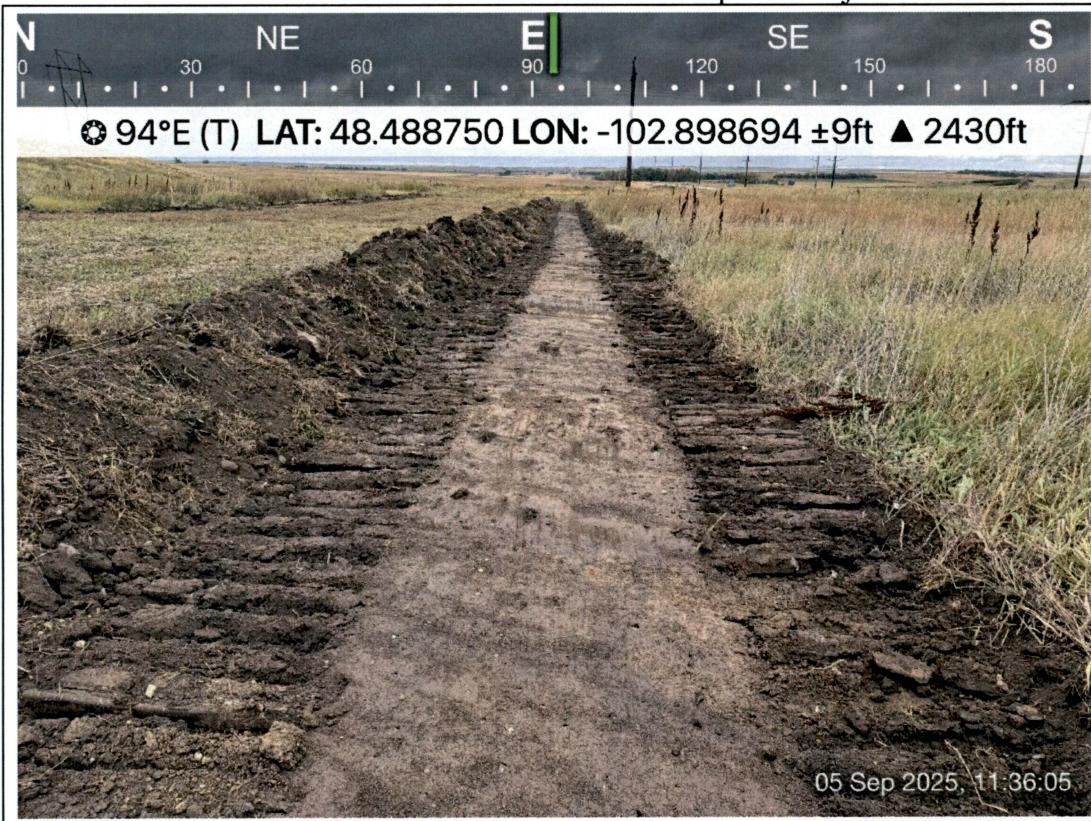


Photo #: 3

Direction: East

Description: Topsoil stripped to depth of color change between topsoil and subsoil.

Observer: Zach Peterson

Date: 9/5/2025

Latitude: 48.488750

Longitude: -102.898694



Photo #: 4

Direction: North

Description: Topsoil pile along North side of topsoil inspection area.

Observer: Zach Peterson

Date: 9/5/2025

Latitude: 48.488799

Longitude: -102.899341

On-Site Photographs

ONEOK Bakken 6-inch NGL Pipeline Project- Williams County



Photo #: 5
Direction: Northeast
Description: Dozer removing topsoil with topsoil pile along North side of construction area in view.
Observer: Zach Peterson
Date: 9/5/2025
Latitude: 48.488705
Longitude: -102.899151




Photo #: 6
Direction: East
Description: Dozer removing topsoil on East end of construction area.
Observer: Zach Peterson
Date: 9/5/2025
Latitude: 48.488883
Longitude: -102.898546

PU-25-172

ONEOK Bakken 6-inch NGL Pipeline Project
Topsoil Inspection Area

Legend

 Topsoil Inspection Area



Topsoil Inspection Area

Google Earth

Image © 2025 Airbus



1000 ft

PU-25-172
ONEOK Bakken 6-inch NGL Pipeline Project
Topsoil Inspection Area

Legend
Topsoil Inspection Area

