

February 15, 2008

Mr. Dennis Breitzman  
Northwest Area Water Supply Project EIS  
Bureau of Reclamation  
P.O. Box 1017  
Bismarck, ND 58502-1017

Dear Mr. Breitzman:

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
NORTHWEST AREA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT  
DECEMBER 21, 2007**

We are grateful to have the opportunity to review and provide comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement recently released on the Northwest Area Water Supply project. As you know, the Province of Manitoba has a significant interest in this project and we wish to provide you with comments arising from a thorough, complete, and thoughtful review. Unfortunately, the 60-day time allowed for the review is inadequate to allow for such a review. As you know, the documents were released just before the holiday period at the end of December, the project is technically complex involving both engineering and ecological disciplines, and while the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is relatively brief, it relies on and makes reference to a large number of documents that are themselves technically complex, voluminous, and some of which were not readily available. Consequently, I respectfully request a 30 day extension of the comment period from February 26, 2008 to March 26, 2008.

Thank you. I look forward to a positive response. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above address, by calling (204) 945-7030, or email at [Dwight.Williamson@gov.mb.ca](mailto:Dwight.Williamson@gov.mb.ca).

Sincerely,



Dwight Williamson  
A/Assistant Deputy Minister  
Ecological Services Division

c: Don Norquay  
David Whorley