



"VARIETY IN HUNTING AND FISHING"

NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

100 NORTH BISMARCK EXPRESSWAY BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58501-5095 PHONE 701-328-6300

January 30, 2008

Northwest Area Water Supply Project EIS
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 1017
Bismarck, North Dakota 58502-1017

Re: Northwest Area Water Supply Project Draft EIS on Water Treatment

Dear Sir or Madam:

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has received a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Northwest Area Water Supply Project on Water Treatment Alternatives. The scope of the DEIS is to evaluate proposed biota water treatment alternatives to reduce the risk of transferring invasive species from the Missouri River basin to the Hudson Bay basin.

The four treatment alternatives evaluated in the DEIS include the No Action Alternative, Basic Treatment, Conventional Treatment and Microfiltration. Construction costs range from \$8.1 million for the No Action Alternative with an \$232,000 annual OM&R cost to \$90 million for the Microfiltration Alternative with an associated 2.1 million dollar annual OM&R cost.

Upon reviewing the DEIS, it became apparent that the No Action Alternative is adequate to meet the biota treatment needs for the project. Although there is always an increase in risk with moving water between basins, albeit extremely low, there are many natural and man-influenced pathways currently existing that create a greater risk for the movement of biota and Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS). In our opinion, the additional cost between the No Action Alternative and the other three alternatives is not justified for slightly increased protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael G. McKenna".

Michael G. McKenna
Chief
Conservation & Communication Division