



MANDAN, HIDATSA, & ARIKARA NATION

Three Affiliated Tribes • Fort Berthold Indian Reservation

404 Frontage Road • New Town, North Dakota 58763-9402

TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL
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MAY 15 2006		
REPLY:	YES	NO
INFO. COPY TO:		
DATE	INITIAL	TO
5/22	JB	Denny
5/15/06	JW	Alicia
		Rick
		Ron
CLASSIFICATION		
PROJECT		
CONTROL NO.		
FOLDER I.D.		

May 5, 2006

Dennis Breitzman, Area Manager
Dakotas Area Office
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 1017
Bismarck ND 58501

Dear Mr. Breitzman:

Dosha! Thank you for your letter of April 11, in which an invitation was extended to our Nation to participate on the Cooperating Agency Team for the Northwest Area Water Supply Project (NAWS) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

We accept your invitation and look forward to working with you and your staff on this important project.

On a related matter, members of my staff attended the NAWS EIS Scoping Meeting Reclamation held at the 4-Bears Casino on May 2, 2006. Several requests and recommendations were made for various matters to be considered in the Draft EIS, which I document here:

- BOR must reconsider potential impacts to sacred and cultural resources and conduct government-to-government consultation with our Nation
- BOR must give equal consideration to proposed alternatives, even if construction has already begun, if impacts are too great to Tribal resources
- BOR must show how impacts to our primary water rights will be avoided
- The EIS must show how the NAWS pipeline will not benefit or draw industry to the Minot area
- BOR must reconsider all 1993 impact analysis reports done for the EA and update if necessary for the DEIS
- BOR must consider all Environmental Justice issues in the DEIS
- We request a 30-day extension to the public comment period
- We request a copy of the 1993 Community Needs and Assessment Report

Mr. Breitzman

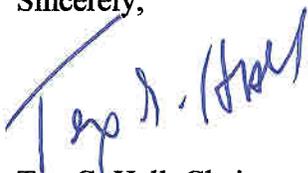
May 5, 2006

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- We request a drought preclude for inclusion in the DEIS as a way to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts to our Nation's water quantity and quality and to our sacred and cultural resources that become exposed with low lake levels
- We request documentation of current water conservation practices to be reviewed and included as part of the DEIS
- We request that sediment and sediment contamination issues be reviewed and included as part of the DEIS as we have found that sedimentation problems increase exponentially with decreasing water levels in Lake Sakakawea

This concludes our scoping comments and requests. Thank you again for inviting our Nation to participate in this important project; we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Tex G. Hall, Chairman
Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation