

**CITY OF BERTHOLD**  
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Phone 701-453-3641; Fax 701-453-3290

March 20, 2008

Bureau of Reclamation  
Attn: Alicia Waters  
PO Box 1017  
Bismarck, ND 58502

RE: NAWS=EIS Comments

Dear MS. Waters:

For a number of years the Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) Advisory committee, the Bureau of Reclamation, the North Dakota State Water Commission, the City of Minot, and the Garrison Diversion Unit have been working on the development of the Northwest Area Water Supply system. Our citizens have also been supporting the project and have been waiting for the development to bring water to our area and our city. We signed up to get on the system so the entities involved would know of the critical need for water which exists in Northwest and North Central North Dakota.

The need for a dependable water supply in this region has been documented. We have been waiting for this system to be developed in order to have a good reliable supply of water which will serve our citizens. We therefore encourage the Bureau of Reclamation to complete the EIS as early as possible and reach the Record of Decision so this project can go forward with treatment of water from the Missouri River Basin.

We encourage the Bureau and the State Department to adopt the "No Action" alternative. Since all of the alternatives that are being considered in the EIS provide significant reduction of biota transfer, with the least cost alternative providing essentially the same reduction as the most expensive alternative, we strongly recommend the adoption of the "No Action" treatment alternative.

Our citizens need and want the water. It is not a question of this system being a backup system for our community. It is an essential need for us and it will provide good potable water for our

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citizens. And even though we are soon to get the NAWS water we feel it vitally important that those communities down stream have the opportunity to have good water also. We strongly support this project for our community and our region.

IN conclusion, we recommend selection of the "No Action" alternative and early completion of the Record of Decision in order to see the Environmental Impact Statement process completed and NAWS Project water flowing to our community as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan Lee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping tail.

Alan Lee  
Mayor of Berthold