

Sunday, February 17, 2008

Northwest Area Water Supply Project
Bureau of Reclamation
Dakotas Area Office
PO Box 1017
Bismarck ND 58502

RE: NAWS Project EIS

I am writing this to urge the BOC to implement the No Action alternative for the NAWS project. As I understand it there is only one form of biota that currently exists in the Missouri River drainage area and doesn't exist in the Hudson Bay drainage area. I also understand that that form doesn't exist in the upper reaches of the Missouri because of the harsh climate. The other alternatives are expensive to the point that the NAWS project may never be finished because Federal Funding for this project has been somewhat lacking in the amounts required to finish this project on a timely basis. I have to believe that other methods, i.e. wildlife transfer, fish stocking of lake Darling, movement of water craft between the two basins has more of an impact then the potential pipeline leak will ever have for biota transfer.

Many communities in Northwest North Dakota are at or close to being out of compliance with the EPA standards for drinking water. It is critical to our region that this project be completed at the earliest possible date.

The project has many safeguards built into it. In the event of a leak in the pipe, the flow would be shutdown long before any major spill could make it to the Souris.

Again I would urge the BOC to continue with the present plan to chemically disinfect the water prior to crossing the divide. Any further delay in this project merely provides the Canadian politicians the opportunity to raise other objections.

Sincerely,

James P (Jim) Hatlelid
1944 Skyline DR
Minot ND 58703
Home 701-838-2283
Work 701-838-3377
Cell 701-720-1384

Jph74@min.midco.net
Hatelelid@brhs.com