

Bureau of Reclamation
Dakota Area Office
October 10, 2010

Subject: Northwest Area Water Supply Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

My name is Kenneth Rogers. I am a life long resident of Bottineau County and live in the NAWS service area. I also serve on several boards that involved with this project.

The Northwest Area Water Supply is a MUST. It is absolutely essential to the future of this area of the state of North Dakota. This project is the only answer to meet the ever continuing raising of the EPA drinking water standards on our communities. Water shortages, water quality especially arsenic, iron, manganese and radio- nucleotide levels are common problems. Correcting these problems is not economically feasible on a local level. A regional solution is the only answer.

To address the questions to be evaluated in the supplemental EIS are as follows: 1) The cumulative impact of water withdrawals from Lake Sakakawea and the Missouri river are so small once you look at the totality of water that passes through the system and enters the system just through North Dakota precipitation and natural drainage. When you cannot use water resources that are in your own back yard to meet your local needs it questions the real motives of the opposition to this project. 2) In the evaluation of the environmental consequences within the Hudson Bay Basin as a result of transfer of invasive species through either pretreated or treated water is so minute compared to the natural transmission of raw water by nature (migratory birds such as geese, ducks and pelicans, wild game etc.). Man and his activities is also a much greater risk due to his activities like sports especially fishing, camping, agriculture and industry especially the use of water in the oil industry. It should be noted that only a portion of the treated water use in the NAWS water supply area would ever go through a wastewater facility and get back in the Hudson Bay drainage system. In addition the water exchange between the Missouri and the Hudson Bay basins has been taking place for over 100 years in the Milk River region of Montana. With all the use of bottled water today with is less regulated than water from our facet, little if any attention is paid to where the water comes from. (more likely than not from another drainage basin; good food for thought.) 3) The potential effects on climate change would be very positive. Anyone who has ever had to haul water for their home use or for community needs knows that it is time consuming and most of all very expensive. Treated water transmission in a pipeline is the most efficient and cost effective means of transporting and delivering good quality water to people. Water is still the most essential element in life. 4) The need for NAWS is even greater today than in the past. The most common sense and economical ways to address these problems is a regional water system. The idea for NAWS started back in the 1980's when our region saw the need. The need is even greater today. In this day in age with all of our modern technology there seems something innately wrong with all the

opposition to a rather simple project to provide the most important resource in our daily life – water.

In conclusion, my hope is that this project will come to a quick solution. It should not take a lifetime to complete such a simple project. The project wanted to treat water in Minot in order to make best use of money spent on their facility. These delays just continue to increase the project costs. It is time to complete NAWIS as soon as possible. We have completed one Canadian oil pipeline through eastern North Dakota and we are looking at the design and construction of another oil pipeline just across our border in Montana. Why should it less time to probably construct two Canadian oil pipelines in less time that one simple water project. It seems unjust. What is more of an enviromental risk oil or treated water. It just defies common sense. As a Bottineau county citizen we need this project if we are to cure our water problems and have some hope for the future. Thank you.