

The Forum

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Delays boost Minot water system costs

Associated Press

MINOT, N.D. — Delays in a \$165 million project to bring Missouri River water to northwestern North Dakota are pushing the price tag up by 5 percent every year, the city's public works director says.

The Northwest Area Water Supply Project was designed to transfer water from Lake Sakakawea to Minot next year, and then to communities north and west of Minot.

Public Works Director Alan Walter said a proposal to move Missouri River water to the Red River Valley in times of drought would take water from the same place as NAWS, and Red River interests will be competing for construction money. "They'll be going after the same money we want," Walter said.

He hopes to get bids this fall for improvements at the Minot water treatment plant. That would increase the plant's water capacity to about 27 million gallons — a 10 million gallon increase — and get the water moved to the other communities in the NAWS project area.