

Bismarck Tribune

Treatment option finalized for NAWS

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Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne has signed off on a treatment plan for a project to move Missouri River water to northwestern North Dakota.

The federal Bureau of Reclamation late last year recommended a \$17.5 million plan for the Northwest Area Water Supply project from among four alternatives. Now that choice is official.

NAWS was first authorized by Congress more than two decades ago, but completion is still likely a long way away.

The bureau's decision will have to be taken to a federal judge who ordered an environmental review of NAWS after a lawsuit by the Canadian province of Manitoba. And North Dakota will have to come up with the money to complete NAWS.