

Water supply project continues

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MINOT (AP) - A project to pipe Missouri River water to this city and parts of northwestern North Dakota is continuing under a federal judge's supervision, with about \$21 million in construction and design work scheduled this year.

An environmental impact statement for the Northwest Area Water Supply project is on track for completion next year, possibly as soon as next spring, said Michelle Klose, the project manager with the State Water Commission.

Still to be built are an intake, a control structure and a reservoir south of Minot. A lawsuit filed by Manitoba has put off that work until the environmental statement is finished. Manitoba worries about the potential transfer of harmful material into its waters.

A federal judge has been allowing non-treatment aspects of the project to move ahead. Less than a mile of pipe is left to go in the ground between Minot and Lake Sakakawea.

Other work planned for this year involves building a high-service pump station, a 2-million gallon storage reservoir and four miles of pipeline, all in Minot. Klose said the pump station is expected to be a two-year project. Twenty miles of pipeline will be installed between Minot and Berthold.

If the environmental statement is finished next spring, treatment facilities could be built over the next two years, and water could be piped to Minot sometime in 2010, Klose said.

"That would be a really aggressive schedule," she said.

Federal funds are to cover 65 percent of the cost of NAWS, with the remaining 35 percent coming from Minot's sales tax. The environmental statement is looking into the type of treatment needed.

If the statement is finished early next year, the emphasis in 2008 will be on building treatment facilities, Klose said. If not, the state could ask the judge in Washington, D.C., for permission to move on to the construction of a water line between Minot and the Minot Air Force Base.