

Work on water project likely to pick up pace

Associated Press

MINOT, N.D. – The manager of the Northwest Area Water Supply project says construction could pick up in the next few years.

The NAWS project would bring Missouri River water to northwestern and north-central North Dakota. Workers finished placing a pipeline through the Souris River earlier this month.

Project manager Michelle Klose said NAWS has about \$21 million in construction planned in the coming year.

Klose is seeking permission from a federal judge to build lines to Kenmare, Mohall, Upper Souris and All Seasons rural water systems and to replace a line to the Minot Air Force Base.

Construction of the pipelines requires court approval until an environmental impact statement is finished. The province of Manitoba sued for more environmental study, citing fears about the transfer of potentially harmful water species from the Souris River Basin



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Workers finish placing pipeline last week for the Northwest Area Water Supply project through the Souris River. The river crossing took longer than expected, but all that remains is the final tie-in to the larger pipeline system.

to the Hudson Bay Basin.

NAWS officials plan to present the construction request to federal attorneys this week. Manitoba's attorneys will have a chance to weigh in.

Klose said a proposal to temporarily divert part of Minot's

NAWS sales tax to help pay for a community bowl should not affect the project. City officials propose to ask voters to shift half the city's 1 percent NAWS sales tax for three years to help pay for an \$11 million track and field complex.