

Two cities, water district get NAWS contracts

By JILL SCHRAMM

Staff Writer

jschramm@minotdailynews.com

The North Dakota Water Commission approved service contracts Friday that will provide water from the Northwest Area Water Supply project to Mohall, Sherwood and All Seasons Water Users District.

The three entities have agreed to the terms of contracts, which set the amounts of water that they will be able to receive through NAWS. The City of Minot will provide water under the contract until NAWS constructs an intake at Lake Sakakawea and completes a treatment system. The contracts limit the amount of water that the cities and water district can receive from Minot.

Michelle Klose, NAWS project engineer with the State Water Commission, said the limits will mean the cities and water district may have to blend water or impose usage restrictions during peak times in the summer.

Construction on pipelines to those areas is scheduled for next summer.

Meanwhile, NAWS engineers are designing the next phase that replaces an existing pipeline to Minot Air Force Base with a larger line. It also includes a pipeline to

□ NAWS

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the Upper Souris Water District, including service to Glenburn and Lansford. Upper Souris will be served off the line that goes to Kenmare as well as the extension from the air base.

The commission also moved closer to the resolution of a disagreement with

the contractor of the NAWS high-service pump station in Minot. The contractor, John T. Jones Construction, Fargo, is seeking an extra \$500,000 to cover work that it claims wasn't in the original contract. The commission approved some settlement provisions and expects to fully resolve the matter soon, Klose said.

A federal lawsuit against NAWS brought by Mani-

toba, and a related lawsuit by Missouri, aren't likely to be resolved until next year. Klose said if the judge requests oral arguments in the cases, the hearing could take place next January.

Klose said the Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, represented by the Justice Department, filed a response Friday to the judge's request for more information. The

judge questioned whether installation of pipeline near Max violated a court injunction on construction of water treatment facilities. Klose said the pipeline's installation would only affect how a treatment facility might be designed. It won't prevent the project from using any of the proposed treatment options or interfere with the effectiveness of those treatments, she said.