

NAWS to ask for an advance

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MINOT (AP) - The manager of a project to bring Missouri River water to Minot and northwestern North Dakota says the state and the city of Minot will be asked to advance money for summer pipeline work.

The Northwest Area Water Supply project is seeking a \$6 million advance from the city of Minot.

A committee of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District and the State Water Commission on Wednesday gave NAWS \$670,000 and told its developers to work with the Water Commission on a possible \$1.3 million advance.

NAWS project manager Michelle Klose said the advances would allow bids. She said the money would be reimbursed during the next federal fiscal year, which begins in October. Without an advance, she said, construction would be delayed.

Developers want to complete 10 miles of the pipeline to Kenmare this year, Klose said.

NAWS, which was first authorized by Congress in 1986, has been under construction since 2002. The state and Manitoba are at odds over how to treat the water, but construction unrelated to the treatment is continuing in the meantime.

The State Water Commission is expected to discuss NAWS at a meeting Monday. Besides the advance, the commission also is expected to decide whether to accept a recommendation to move up plans for building a pipeline in the Bottineau area.

If construction starts this year, the Kenmare pipeline could be completed by the end of 2009 and an extension to Mohall the following year.