

Another river boring for NAWS to start this week

By JILL SCHRAMM

Staff Writer

jschramm@minotdailynews.com

The contractor assigned to boring under highways and water bodies for a Northwest Area Water Supply pipeline says tunneling will begin this week under the Souris River north of the Minot Water Treatment Plant.

ERS Constructors of Centennial, Colo., just finished boring under 16th Street at that location and was installing pipeline Friday.

The company previously attempted a boring under the Souris River at the U.S. Highway 83 Bypass and Fifth Avenue. It suspended operations more than a month ago after encountering quicksand and endless wet silt from ground water. The company moved onto to other work on the NAWS project while studying its options for tunneling under the river.

Work remains halted at that site while the study continues.

"We see two potential solutions. We are studying costs," said Paul Langlois, boring and tunnel construction division manager for ERS.

He said ERS has other highway and street borings still to complete that it may try to get to before going back to the river bore at the bypass.

The river boring near the water treatment plant also will be challenging because of the 35-foot depth involved, Langlois said.

Pipeline is laid 7.5 feet under the river bed, requiring the deep boring. Pipeline on surface ground is buried to eight feet.

Langlois said the river boring near the water plant could take a couple of weeks.

ERS is working on about four miles of pipeline in the Minot vicinity that will be used to take NAWS water to area communities. Tunneling under the Souris River near the water treatment plant is necessary to bring the pipeline into the plant.



Jill Schramm/MDN

Equipment was at work Wednesday just north of the Minot Water Treatment Plant, where ERS Constructors was boring under 16th Street for the NAWS pipeline. Boring under the river at the location is to begin this week.

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