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BRIEFLY

Commission awards second NAWS bid

BISMARCK (AP) — The state Water Commission on Tuesday awarded the bid for the second stretch of the Northwest Area Water Supply pipeline to a Minot firm.

Coughlin Construction was the low bidder for the 9 1/2 mile stretch, at \$4.7 million.

The first 7 1/2 miles of pipeline have already been installed. Project engineer Jim Lennington said the work this year will extend the pipeline from Minot to state Highway 23, about 40 percent of the distance between the city and Lake Sakakawea.

Work should begin in June, he said.

Manitoba is suing the federal Bureau of Reclamation over the \$145 million project. Provincial officials want a more detailed study of whether NAWS could introduce potentially harmful plant matter and organisms into the Hudson Bay basin. They also want changes in how the Missouri River water is treated.