

**NORTHWEST AREA WATER SUPPLY**

Gov. John Hoeven, left, and State Engineer Dale Frink discuss NAWS funding with Minot officials Thursday.



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2-13-04

# State pitching in on NAWS

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The state is pitching in \$2.4 million this year for the construction of the Northwest Area Water Supply pipeline, a project that is normally paid for by federal and local funds.

The state money that will go toward the construction of NAWS will help keep the project on schedule.

Gov. John Hoeven said he is

taking an aggressive approach to water projects in the state.

"We are going to do everything we can to keep this on schedule," Hoeven said.

The money will come out of the State Water Commission's budget.

Hoeven and State Engineer Dale Frink were in Minot Thursday where they discussed NAWS in an informal meeting with Minot officials.

The project, which will

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## NAWS

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bring water from Lake Sakakawea to Minot and several other communities in the northwest area of the state, will cost about \$150 million.

NAWS is normally funded with federal money and collections from a one-cent sales tax in Minot, but the federal portion varies from year to year.

President George Bush had eliminated funding for NAWS and other state water projects in 2004, but Congress later added almost \$11 million in funding. Half of that amount went to NAWS.

Bush's 2005 budget that was recently released included a reduction of \$5 million from

funding levels in 2004 for NAWS and other water projects in the state.

Hoeven said the objective is to get \$7 million for NAWS from the federal government in 2005.

State Engineer Dale Frink said the next few phases of NAWS will become more expensive as pump stations, reservoirs and an intake will have to be built.

"It's more than just a pipeline, there are some very large ticket items," Frink said.

Bids for this year's phase of the project will be opened later this month.

This will be the third year of construction on NAWS.

Minot officials want to begin treating water from Lake Sakakawea by 2007.