

NEWS RELEASE

*Contact: Liz Brocker
(701) 328-2213*

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COURT OF APPEALS APPROVES NORTH DAKOTA'S REQUEST ON NAWS PROJECT

BISMARCK, ND - The DC Circuit Court of Appeals issued a victory for North Dakota today on the Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) Project, approving the state's request to be allowed to begin paper design work of a water treatment plant. The design work is expected to take approximately 20 months, with construction taking an additional two years.

"The Court recognized that this design work is an important and lengthy process that will do nothing to harm Manitoba or Missouri," Stenehjem said. "However, given the length of time it will take to complete design, it is important that we begin this work soon. In addition, during this budgeting cycle, this is an important message to our legislature that the NAWS project is continuing to move in a positive direction."

North Dakota has been attempting to design and build the NAWS project for approximately the past twenty years to bring a higher quality, more reliable supply of drinking to approximately 81,000 citizens in Minot and the surrounding communities. Those efforts have been thwarted by the Province of Manitoba and State of Missouri through continued litigation.

The merits of the underlying case are scheduled for oral argument on March 30, 2017, in front of the DC District Court.

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