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Cal Larson
State Senator

District 10

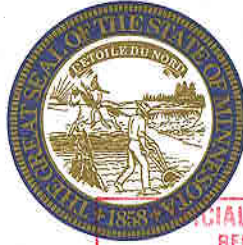
Dean Simpson
State Representative

District 10B
Becker, East Otter Tail
and Wadena Counties

April 12, 2006

Red River Valley Water Supply Project
Bureau of Reclamation
PO Box 1017
Bismark, ND 58502-1017

To Whom It May Concern:



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REPLY: YES NO

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CLASSIFICATION

PROJECT

CONTROL NO.

FILED I.D.

Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives

It is with great concern that we submit this letter in regard to the proposed Red River Valley Water Supply Project.

Ground water is an essential resource of nearly all residential, municipal, rural, industrial and irrigation uses in Perham and the surrounding area. Any plan to access, divert, or in any way alter the current state of this ground water supply must be approached with reliable data, diligent study, and in an open forum with all parties involved. To date, we do not believe any of these standards have been achieved.

Although we were not notified nor included in any communication or meetings regarding this project, it is our understanding that the Draft EIS is alarmingly limited in its assessment. For example, the EIS fails to address the long-term impact the withdrawal on ground water resources in the Ottertail Outwash and Pelican Sands Aquifers would have on the supply area. It also lacks a critical analysis of the effect of having a user controlled system in place to determine when the system should be fully operational.

We are also troubled to learn that the EIS bases many of its assumptions related to the impact on water quantity on the average data for the period 1931 to 2001. However, the impact of the drought with the magnitude of the 1930's only references the surface water quantity for the Red River and Sheyenne. No comparable data regarding the impact of drought conditions on ground water supplies is provided in the report.

The City of Perham has demonstrated its commitment to providing its residents with clean water by investing a significant amount of money to protect its ground water supplies from contamination. This includes the acquisition of highly sensitive agriculture lands, development of public education programs in local schools, working with the University of Minnesota, NRCS, SWCD and others to exhibit the effect of new fertilizers, irrigation scheduler programs, annual sampling of wells for the past 10 years, etc. Drilling 100, 150 or more water supply wells would be detrimental to these efforts by causing a negative impact throughout Otter Tail and Becker Counties. Simply put, this is unacceptable.

Without proper data on the comprehensive affect the Red River Valley Water Supply Project will have on Minnesota's natural resources, any action to move forward with this project will not be well taken. We will oppose any efforts to continue this project.

Sincerely,

Cal Larson
State Senator

Dean Simpson
State Representative

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