

Pelican Township

PO Box 873
Pelican Rapids, MN 57572

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April 15, 2006

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

Subject: Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Statement Red River Valley Water Supply Management Project

To Whom It May Concern:

Pelican Township is located within the area of the Pelican River Aquifer that is presently included in one of your options for supplying water to the Red River Valley in the event of a sever drought such as was experienced in the 1930s.

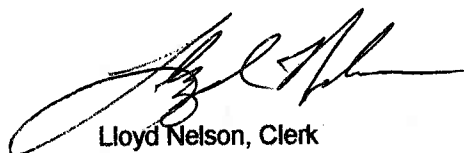
Not having been involved in the project and only being informed of this option recently, the Township has a concern related to the process for determining the impact to the Township environment and for the local residents. When the topic was brought up at our past Town Board meeting it was noted that in a recent drought period, 1976, many local wells went dry and the overall water levels of several area lakes was also down.

The pictures in the study show the Red River during drought periods but there are not photo's that show the drop in the lakes of Otter Tail County. On North Lake Lida for example, it was possible to walk to the island in the lake without getting wet; today that same area is covered by 15 feet of water!

Pelican Township has worked in cooperation with the City of Pelican Rapids to draft a plan to protect the Pelican River Aquifer as it is the source of drinking water for the City and for Township residents. What consideration has been given to the local residents if a significant number of wells are drilled and the water table drops, or worse the aquifer is contaminated?

The Town Board of Pelican welcomes the study of different options for the water sources for the Red River Valley, but if local Minnesota water resources are intended to be included as an option; the Township should have been fomally notified and the environmental and economic impacts more thoroughly explained and outlined. Given the limited information that has been made available, the Township is opposed to a plan for drilling multiple wells into the aquifer and having a pipeline built to send the water to Fargo/Moorhead.

Sincerely,



Lloyd Nelson, Clerk