



1010 WEST ST. GERMAIN STREET  
 SUITE 600  
 ST. CLOUD, MN 56301  
 320 252-4414  
 Fax: 320 252-4482

500 IDS CENTER  
 80 SOUTH EIGHTH STREET  
 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-3796  
 612 632-3000  
 Fax: 612 632-4444

180

Reply to St. Cloud

Lee W. Hanson

320 252-4414

lee.hanson@gpmlaw.com

April 25, 2006

RED RIVER VALLEY WATER  
 SUPPLY PROJECT  
 304 EAST BROADWAY  
 BISMARCK ND 58502

RE: Water Appropriation Permits  
 In Ottertail County Area for the Red River  
 Valley Drought Mitigation Project

OFFICIAL FILE COPY RECEIVED		
APR 27 2006		
REPLY:	YES	NO
INFO. COPY TO:		
DATE	INITIAL	TO
5/5	RB	Sigle Baker
CLASSIFICATION		
PROJECT		
CONTROL NO.		
FOLDER I.D.		

Dear Sir/Madam:

Our law firm represents the Minnesota Irrigators' Association and this drought mitigation project has raised a number of concerns of our members, both in respect to the process that is being followed and with respect to the total availability of water in the area for appropriation for other uses. We have assembled a list of concerns that we would like addressed:

1. **Priority.** How is the priority going to be determined insofar as mixed uses relating to domestic and industrial uses that are commingled for the Red River Valley cities? The DNR currently is concerned about the availability of water in issuing irrigation permits. How can there possibly be enough water to more than double the current permitted withdrawal?
2. **Well Head protection.** Will more regulations be imposed on agricultures due to Pthe huge well head recharge area that will be created? There is concern with nitrates and agricultural chemicals on the increasing regulations imposed upon agriculture with this project. Who will compensate the existing landowners?
3. **Quantity Issues.** If these wells are placed in this lakes and river area, will the lake levels and river levels drop or water temperatures rise? There was a moratorium in place on new irrigation and development along the Straight River due just to temperature concerns. This could also cause wetlands to dry up and certain plant and animal species could be endangered.

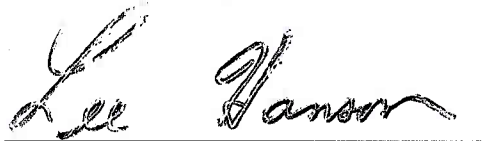
4. **Future Development in Small Towns and Cities in this Well Head Area.** Will this project curtail development in the out state area and give an advantage to the cities benefiting from the withdrawal. It will concentrate development in areas that are prime ag land along the Red River Valley. It will also curtail animal livestock development, which is a priority of the Minnesota government, in the well head area due to water availability and nutrient concerns.
5. Have the economics of limitations on irrigation been considered?

The Minnesota Irrigators Association, and specifically, the Irrigation District CMIC in the Otter Tail County area is very disappointed with the lack of information available to the various constituencies and in the timing of news releases of meetings and informational sessions.

Very truly yours,

GRAY, PLANT, MOOTY,  
MOOTY & BENNETT, P.A.

By

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lee W. Hanson

LWH:smc

c: Norman Krause

MN DNR  
James Japp  
Waters Division