



# North Dakota Geological Survey

Edward C. Murphy - State Geologist  
Department of Mineral Resources  
Lynn D. Helms - Director

North Dakota Industrial Commission  
www.state.nd.us/ndgs

February 17, 2006

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

Re: Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP)  
DRAFT EIS Review and Comments

The North Dakota Geological Survey appreciates the opportunity to review and provide comment on the DRAFT Environmental Impact Statement (DRAFT EIS) for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project. We have completed our review and at this time would have no further comments or suggested changes or revisions to the current document.

Our main concern, as previously discussed in a letter from this agency dated October 7, 2004, is the potential for adverse changes in channel morphology occurring within the riparian zone as a result of a departure from the natural flow regime (i.e. increased project flows over time). Adverse changes (e.g. channel widening) in channel morphology could lead to an increase of cutbank instability within river meanders. Areas of greatest concern would be located in currently developed areas.

Based on a review of the sections of the DRAFT EIS devoted particularly to this issue, including the discussion of cumulative impacts provided in Chapter Four and the analysis of riparian areas provided in Appendix G, we feel that the information presented sufficiently describes and documents the potential range of impacts that could be realized.

Again, the NDGS appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the relevant geological aspects of this project. Please feel free to contact our offices at (701) 328-8000 or via email at fjanderson@state.nd.us. if there are any further questions, comments, or concerns regarding any of the information contained in this letter.

Sincerely,

North Dakota Geological Survey:

*Fred J. Anderson*  
Fred J. Anderson  
Geologist

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CC: Edward C. Murphy, State Geologist

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