

**Red River Water Supply Project  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Comments  
Public Hearing, Perham, Minnesota, Thursday, February 16, 2006**

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WJH  
2/16/06  
Will Haapala, Regional Manager

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Red River Water Supply Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Also, we are encouraged by the Bureau's decision to extend the comment period by 30 days. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency offers the following comments regarding the RRVWSS DEIS:

- **Public Involvement Program**

We did not receive responses to our comments and questions about the Red River Valley Water Needs and Options Draft Report before the report was finalized. This reduced our confidence in the Project Public Involvement Program.

- **Water Supply Needs**

We do not agree with the growth and population assumptions and projections used as the basis for estimating future water supply needs.

- **Project Benefits and Costs**

The report and DEIS do not adequately address cost to benefit ratio and affordability of the project.

- **Invasive Species and Biota Treatment**

The MPCA is seriously concerned that options which rely on interbasin transfer of Missouri River water will also cause transfer of invasive species to the Red River Basin. We believe that the DEIS does not adequately address this risk. Also, the DEIS does not provide us confidence in the reliability of the proposed biota treatment systems.

- **Planning**

Water supply planning for the Minnesota portion of the Red River Valley would be better done by more closely integrating it with Minnesota state, regional and local water supply planning.

- **Effects of Aquifer Storage and Recovery**

The potential adverse effects inherent in aquifer storage and recovery for the North Dakota In-Basin and Red River Basin alternatives are not adequately reported and evaluated.