

March 23, 2006

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

Dear Sir:

The proposed alternative for piping water from Lake of the Woods to the Red River Valley is definitely ill-advised. From the viewpoint of fisheries impact, the results could be serious. Lake of the Woods is one of North America's premier fisheries for such game fish as walleyed pike, sauger, and muskellunge. A lowering of lake levels could influence the spawning success of these important species. An even more serious threat to this blue-ribbon fishery would be for the pipeline to provide an avenue for the invasion of such undesirable warm water fishes as catfish and carp.

The project would constitute an undesirable precedent in draining waters of joint jurisdiction between the United States and Canada. Such a precedent could have dire consequences for the future of the Great Lakes.

Sincerely yours,

Charles W. Huver Ph.D.
Curator of Fishes, Retired
University of Minnesota

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