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March 16, 2007

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

To whom it may concern:

In late February 2007 I became aware of a public Red River Water Meeting scheduled for February 28, 2007 at the Fargo Ramada Inn, sponsored by the Garrison Conservancy District. And at about the same time I came into possession of the "Executive Summary Supplemental Impact Statement Red River Valley Water Supply Project."

I attended that meeting and was invited to take the podium to express my views. I was not prepared. Nearly all in attendance represented the Bureau of Reclamation, the Garrison Conservancy District or local water committees and appeared to be in previously reached agreement.

I soon learned that the discussions were limited to the Environmental Impact Statement and the "preferred alternative" of the DEIS.

It was stated at the meeting that any comments regarding the DEIS should be sent to the North Dakota office of the Bureau of Reclamation and received by March 26, 2007. Hence I have taken the liberty to send some extensive comments for your records and mine.

I am 87 years old, so some of my comments may be outdated. But I firmly believe that potable water is more difficult to obtain year by year worldwide. But specifically in the United States, potable water sources are under increasing pressure because of growing populations and the inevitable movement of people, business and industry away from the vulnerable coastal areas into the interior of our country. This fact seems to dictate that every state should use it's potable water wisely and with out needless waste.

My experience with limited water began in the 1920's in Amenia North Dakota. Their potable water was scarce enough to warrant only 2 inches of water in the tub each Saturday night in which 3 young boys were supposed to get clean. There were no showers in the school gym locker room.

The decade of the 1930's made potable water even scarcer. Our family got its monthly supply of drinking water in five gallon drums from the Fargo-Detroit Ice Company, shipped in on the Great Northern Galloping Goose.

The Red River ran dry the summer of 1936, and the Geological Survey record said there was no flow in the river for 166 consecutive days. Those kind of memories came back when I read your very well done DEIS, which emphasizes environmental and historical effects from the five alternate ways of bringing potable water to the water limited eastern edge of North Dakota. But I believe that the water limitation problem deserves some deep thought extended much further into the future.

Years later, after a BS degree from the North Dakota Agricultural College and the first of two years at the University of Minnesota graduate school, I joined the Navy for 3 years of WWII destroyer duty. In the Navy, I learned that waste in lives and resources are sometimes justified in war but not in peace time. Government expenditures can be easily recognized as necessary at certain times to promote a high quality of living for all.

After WWII, my family and I began farming family owned land with the Rush River meandering across the farm, making square field farming difficult.

In 1960 John Kennedy, Quentin Burdick, and I ran for public office. One of the major issues was to start the long promised, but stalled, Garrison Diversion Project. All three candidates won their offices. A stream of North Dakotans, under the banner of the North Dakota Water Users Association headed by Oscar Berg, joined Mylo Hoisvein (State Water Engineer), Fred Frederickson (a Washington DC lobbyist) and our congressional delegation in a gentle but firm full court press to get the Garrison Diversion Project authorized and funded. Success came in 1965.

President Eisenhower had dedicated Garrison Dam in 1954. The Pick Sloan Plan was beginning to come to life. Water was rising in Lake Sakakawea and a friend and I sailed his 21' fixed keel sailboat from Pick City to Newtown and back without using the motor. The grandeur of water recreation sparkled before our eyes even though the dead branches of trees not covered by water showed how much deeper the lake would be.

Early in my first term in 1961, I was elected Chairman of the ten state Missouri Basin Governors. I served that year and was re-elected in 1962. I found that this

group of Governors were joined together to bring greater pressure on Congress and the federal government to obtain their shares of the Pick Sloan program. The southern states, which gained much from flood control and the stabilizing of the Missouri – Mississippi barge industry received their benefits first, but lost interest in or actually opposed any diversion of the Missouri River in the four upstream states seeking irrigation and Missouri River water. That condition continues today.

The ten governors again pushed politically for the formation and passage of federal law allowing the organization of river basin state officials, and which also required federal agencies, such as the Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, etc. to join the Commission with no more authority than their state counterparts.

After the first attempt in 1968, I was finally able to get a Missouri River Basin Commission organized in 1970. I served as its first Chairman. When Ronald Regan was elected President, he immediately ordered all federal funding for all federal agencies belonging to such commissions to be deleted.

Earlier I had organized a Red River Basin Commission with Minnesota and North Dakota with Manitoba attending. Gordon Grey was its first Executive Officer. It also lost under President Regan's edict.

The Bureau of Reclamation took the lead in developing the lake water diversion projects at a rate Glenn Sloan would have approved.

I visited Japan in 1968 on a trade mission for midwestern agricultural products. There I visited the Hitachi Iron Works which had won the bid for the two huge Snake Creek pumps. A smaller prototype pump was laid out on the floor of the factory. I was impressed with what I saw, but wondered how a huge pump like that could be serviced, repaired or replaced in a hurry!

My 12 years from 1961 to 1973 serving as chairman of the North Dakota Water Commission were exciting and almost totally involved with Missouri River activity.

My four terms as Governor were up in 1973. In 1979 I was invited to work for Basin Electric Power Cooperative. I accepted and my family and I moved back to the North Dakota capitol city we had left for Casselton only 6 years before.

Most of My work with Basin had to do with scouting for and managing industrial water for a huge 1500 megawatt coal fired electric generator in Wyoming and a second one planned for that state.

My work in Wyoming quickly taught me that all of the surface and ground water in that state was already claimed by various legal rights.

In Wyoming I discovered that water rights were not only legal but also political. When Basin Electric decided to make an 80,000 acre foot reservoir on tiny Chubwater Creek, the state of Nebraska rose up in federal court and demanded that Basin Electric not dam up any Chubwater Creek water because that water flowed into the Laramie River and the Laramie flowed into the Platte River, which flowed into Nebraska, which was in turn irrigated Nebraska corn fields.

After a long and arduous court struggle, a Nebraska federal judge ruled that Basin Electric could build its reservoir on Chubwater Creek to hold 60,000 acre feet of water, but no more. He also ruled that Basin Electric must put up \$7.5 million to form a new conservation organization fund called the Whooping Crane Critical Habitat Trust to be headquartered in Grand Island Nebraska on the Platte River. It was interesting to me to be appointed to the Whooping Crane Critical Habitat Trust Board of Directors representing Basin Electric. Again I obtained an even broader view of how state and local politics enter into water rights – even when Whooping Cranes don't show up.

In 1985 Governor George Sinner became Governor of North Dakota. He invited me to become a Board Member of the North Dakota Water Commission which I had previously chaired for 12 years. Basin Electric agreed and I accepted his offer.

The Southwest Area Pipeline gained a huge leg up when it was able to contract with Basin Electric to receive Lake Sakakawea water from Basin's multi-million dollar intake structure which comes up from under the lake. This assured source of water prompted Southwest Area to build their pipeline from north of Beulah to a hill top, above ground, regulatory cistern outside of Dickinson. This pipeline and the above ground cistern have been especially successful.

I retired from Basin Electric in 1985. Three years later Basin Electric asked me to be a Board Member for the Dakota Coal Gasification Company which they had recently purchased from the federal government. Basin Electric had purchased the plant, which the federal government had reclaimed, from the original owners because of failed federal loan repayments.

The coal gasification plant used water from the same Sakakawea water intake it was sharing with Southwest Area Pipeline and the Antelope Valley Coal fired electric generator.

The coal gasification process converts lignite coal to synthetic natural gas, plus a host of other products including nitrogen type fertilizer. But a large amount of CO<sub>2</sub> was produced as an unwelcome bi-product.

A deal was struck between the huge Pan Canadian Petroleum Company and Dakota Gas Company that would require CO<sub>2</sub> to be solidified in liquid form and transported 205 miles by 14" and 12" diameter 2700 lbs/square inch strength

steel welded pipe from Antelope Valley near Beulah to the Weyburn oil fields in southeastern Saskatchewan. The CO<sub>2</sub> would be used for tertiary recovery of crude oil from depleted oil wells. The process has proved so successful in sequestering CO<sub>2</sub> and bringing oil production back, that Pan Canadian has ordered an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> delivery. This has required a pull-push booster pump to be installed in the pipeline near Tioga. The 205 mile pipeline was built over all types of rough terrain and under 2 miles of Lake Sakakawea at a cost of about \$60 million. The liquefying and sequestering equipment raised the total cost to about \$120 million. I mention this project because it demonstrates so well the success of the use of buried x-rayed welded, high pressure steel pipe. Water piping would cost less because of lower pressure requirements on the steel pipe.

I readily admit the preference for building a potable water supply pipeline from Lake Sakakawea to near Fargo for Red River Valley water distribution over using previously built structures designed to bring water to Lone Tree Reservoir for dispersion north to the Mouse River, south to the James River and east to the Sheyenne. I felt terrible when a questionable complaint by environmentalists from Minnesota and Manitoba called a halt only eight miles and \$8 million away from reaching regulating the Lone Tree Reservoir. I still don't believe that should have happened.

But today we no longer have time to wring our hands. What's done is done and what we do now will be examined carefully by coming generations as they meet the predictable periods of water shortages.

I believe the future is best served by diverting Missouri River water from near Bismarck to Fargo by pipeline. The DEIS identifies it as the Missouri River Import to Red River Valley Alternative.

I believe this pipeline alternative has both large and small advantages such as:

1. It delivers Sakakawea water to the Bismarck intake in the steady and predictable flow the Corps of Engineers destined to serve downstream interests. The two or more horizontal river intakes would always be in Missouri River flows.
2. All of the pipeline intake water would have already passed to the energy head of water over the dam penstocks and in turn passed the turbines which spin hydro electric energy before leaving the dam spillway for the Bismarck pipeline intake.
3. The Bismarck pipeline intake would be far less subject to fouling from floating ice chunks, collapsed canal walls and blowing or wind driven trash.
4. All of the water taken in by the Bismarck intake would be scheduled for regulating ground cisterns. None would be lost mingling with other water flowing in the Sheyenne or Red River.
5. A Bismarck pipeline intake would be almost instantly controllable as to volume and time of discharge.

6. Pipeline water is easily diverted and valved in connecting lateral delivery pipelines or ground level control cisterns.
7. As the need for water over the years increases, as it will, booster stations of pull-push pumps can increase delivery volumes at will.
8. There is no change in the chemistry and make up of pipeline delivered water, making it easier to establish and maintain standards.
9. I would recommend two intakes and two pipelines operating together in the same trench to always have continuous on demand delivery if, for whatever reason, there is a desire to take one pipeline temporarily out of service.
10. All of the other alternatives for delivery of water to eastern North Dakota involve some pipeline sections receiving water with no instantaneous or quality control from the other jury rigged sections.
11. A pipeline system wears less but in a predictable manner, and would require much less operation, maintenance, repair and full time employees than the other alternatives.
12. A pipeline does not lose valuable water through evaporation, seepage, freezing, or by mingling with other water.
13. Pipeline water quality would not be seasonally tainted by drainage from other water sheds.
14. Currently, there are several other experienced pipeline systems in North Dakota such as the Southwest Area Pipeline Water System and the Dakota Gas Company's 205 mile liquefied CO<sub>2</sub> pressure pipeline to the Weyburn oil field in Saskatchewan as examples.
15. A pipeline is more able to meet growing population needs beyond 2050.
16. It would be hard for Canada, Minnesota or the Mississippi Barge Operators Association to attack pipeline water delivery with its clean cut transportation.
17. I believe that the study of the alternatives to deliver Missouri River water to the Red River Valley should be extended beyond environmental and historical impacts.
18. It is a system which leaves aquifer resources in North Dakota and Minnesota available for use by others.

Any one of the Red River Valley proposals will have to make it through the United States Congress, North Dakota and Minnesota legislatures, Manitoba Parliament, Canadian State Department, International Joint Commission, North Dakota State Agencies, County Commissions, and city councils.

The Missouri River Import to the Red River Valley is in the best position to secure strong support at local, state, and national levels because it demonstrates a determination to do the right thing without incurring the vulnerability of other alternate plans favored to save a relatively small amount of public funds.

The closest alternative proposal as listed in the DEIS is the GDU Import to the Sheyenne River alternative. I would definitely rank that proposal less desirable than the Missouri River Import to the Red River Valley, even though the latter

shows a greater total annualized cost. In terms of more centered responsibility, instantaneous water control and supply, a more reliable source of water, and far less complicated planning, constructing and maintenance, and more future adaptations possible over time. The Missouri River Import would far exceed in total measurement of value and probably over time rank most economical in public funding.

I recommend the Missouri River Import to the Red River Valley pipeline without reservation, and with a full understanding of the present slight cost disadvantage in the Total Estimated Annualized Cost. The exclusive public benefits far outweigh a possible higher cost.

The Missouri River Import to the Red River Valley is such a concentrated project with few bells and whistles, making it easier to understand by the public, and less vulnerable to legal action by opponents who, for whatever reason, might seek to slow or stop construction.

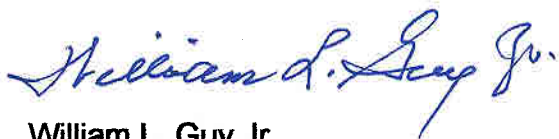
Achieving an assured supply of water from the Missouri River is the greatest challenge facing North Dakota. It is absolutely basic in determining the future of all of North Dakota's population and economy. North Dakota is in a unique position to have knowledgeable representatives in influential positions to advance understanding and support for the Red River Valley water supply effort.

Former North Dakota Governor Alan Olson is now a member of the prestigious International Joint Commission. His knowledge of Canadian views and his ability to express United States and North Dakota Views make him very valuable.

U.S. Senator Ken Conrad is a highly respected U.S. Senate Budget Committee Chairman who strongly supports a Red River Valley plan. U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan is a U.S. Senate leader. His influential position as Majority Party Policy Committee Chairman and his position on the Indian Affairs Committee place him in key roles. Congressman Earl Pomeroy is a member of the all powerful Ways and Means Committee which is the gateway to controlling the introduction of proposed U.S. House of Representatives legislation.

Never before have we had such an influential Congressional delegation. We can depend on them, when we ask for help.

Respectfully submitted by:



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