

# SOUTHWEST WATER PIPELINE PROJECT AND NORTHWEST AREA WATER SUPPLY UPDATES

Both the Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) and Southwest Water Pipeline Project (SWPP) have the common goal of addressing long-standing water supply and quality issues in north and southwest North Dakota by delivering high-quality Missouri River water.

NAWS, authorized by the Garrison Diversion Reformulation Act of 1986 and the Dakota Water Resources Act of 2000, commenced construction in April 2002. However, it encountered delays due to litigation, which were resolved with a favorable court ruling in 2017. Construction continues, with Phase I of the Biota Water Treatment Plant expected to be completed in 2024, and the goal of moving water out of Lake Sakakawea by fall 2024 pending any potential delays. The project is designed to service a project area of 81,000 people and is slated to be complete in 2029.

SWPP, authorized by the North Dakota Legislature in 1981, transports raw water from Lake Sakakawea to treatment plants in Dickinson and north of Zap and currently serves a population of approximately 58,000. SWPP construction began in 1986. It includes multiple facilities and over 5,000 miles of pipe. Future efforts will focus on accommodating regional growth and connecting rural customers who are awaiting SWPP water.

The following is a summary of recent construction activities for SWPP and NAWS.

### **SWPP**

# HYDRAULIC IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FAIRFIELD, KILLDEER MOUNTAIN, NEW HRADEC, AND TWIN BUTTES SERVICE AREAS

This project focuses on increasing capacity within four existing service areas in the SWPP system: Fairfield, Killdeer Mountains, New Hradec, and Twin Buttes. It involves the installation of 18 miles of new PVC pipe and the construction of five additional booster stations. These improvements will enable new customers to connect to the system in regions where capacity constraints existed and to ensure sufficient service for existing customers. This project is well-underway and is approximately 30% complete. Completion is expected by June 2024. The total estimated cost of this project is \$5.9 million.



#### **BIOTA WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

To comply with the Boundary Waters Treaty Act of 1909 and the Supplemental Environmental Assessment enforced during litigation, the Biota Water Treatment Plant was initiated. Its primary purpose is to reduce the transport of biota (animal and plant life) across the continental divide into shared watersheds with Canada. Situated near Max, ND, the facility employs conventional water treatment methods to remove or inactivate aquatic species, pathogens, and microbes native to the Missouri River Basin before transporting the water further north into the Mouse River Basin.

The Phase I 12.25 million gallons-per-day facility is currently over 90 percent complete, with major components finished. Crews are now installing HVAC, plumbing, and processing equipment, along with external elements such as fencing, seeding, and concrete paving. The project remains on schedule for completion in June 2024, with an estimated cost of \$64 million.

#### SNAKE CREEK PUMPING PLANT MODIFICATIONS

Located on Lake Sakakawea approximately 5.5 miles north of the city of Coleharbor, the Snake Creek intake and pumping structure plays a critical role in supplying the NAWS system with Missouri River water. Although this project is in its early stages, six contracts have already been awarded, and work is in progress. It is also projected to be completed in June 2024, with an estimated total cost of \$65 million.

## SOUTH PRAIRIE RESERVOIR AND HYDRAULIC CONTROL STRUCTURE

Designed to provide system stability, this project includes a 10-million-gallon (average day demand) reservoir, a hydraulic control structure, and a flow control facility. Construction is ahead of schedule and is nearing completion. Construction is anticipated to finish in November of this year, with a total project cost of about \$17 million.

# SOURIS AND BOTTINEAU RESERVOIRS AND PUMP STATIONS

This project involves a one-million-gallon ground storage reservoir and pump station, as well as a three-million-gallon storage reservoir and pump station. It aims to supply water to the City of Bottineau and All Seasons Water Users District northwest of Bottineau. Construction has recently commenced, with an expected completion date in November 2024. The project is estimated to cost \$13 million.

#### **SERVICE TO WESTHOPE**

Approximately 4,000 ft of service line and metering was installed to connect the city of Westhope to NAWS. This project is substantially complete. Total project cost was approximately \$1 million.

