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# Water Works

SOUTHWEST WATER  
AUTHORITY

The Official Publication of  
Southwest Water Authority  
and the  
Southwest Pipeline Project

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## Manager's message

Mary Massad, Manager/Chief Executive Officer



**Mary Massad**  
Manager/CEO

Cool,  
Fresh,  
Pure,  
Water.

This is the beginning of the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) story. A quality source of reliable water has been a need, and I stress need, in southwest North Dakota throughout our history.

### What is the source of the water for all of the SWPP?

The source is Lake Sakakawea. The SWPP shares the intake with the Antelope Valley Station. Lake Sakakawea is a large, stable source of water. Since the state has a permanent flood in our backyard, that is the lake, we are able to use this source for the drinking water for the SWPP.

This permanent flood is a result of the Flood Control Act of 1944 and the reason why the Missouri River was dammed to form Lake Sakakawea. Lake Sakakawea is the third largest man-made lake in the United States and is the largest of the main stem dams on the Missouri River system. At capacity, the Lake holds 24 million acre feet of water.

### Is it safe?

Most emphatically, YES! SWPP water is currently treated at the water treatment plant (WTP) in Dickinson. There is a new WTP under construction for the Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn Regional Service Area, but that is a story for another day.

Water safety is governed by federal laws. Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) in 1974 and it was amended in 1986 and 1996. It was again amended in 2002 to address drinking water safety and security concerns in light of terrorism threats. The SDWA authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish regulations to provide for and ensure drinking water safety.

These rules, regulations and laws are monitored, administered and enforced in North Dakota by the Department of Health (DOH). There are many parts to the SDWA to ensure the public, unlike anywhere else in the world, the water coming out of your tap is safe to consume.

### Is the water treated?

Again, most emphatically, YES! Treatment actually starts at the intake, then at Dodge and finally at the WTP in Dickinson. This is a 90-mile trip for Missouri River water before it is fully treated and then again pumped to your community, farm, ranch, home or business.

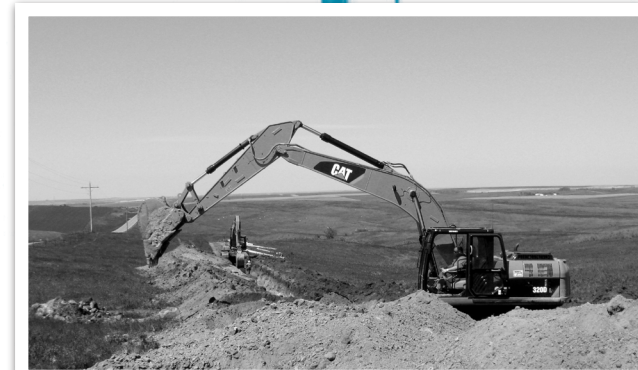
### How is the water treated?

Treatment begins at the source, Lake Sakakawea.

When taste and odor causing vegetation are higher or when the lake turns over, which it does, Southwest Water Authority (SWA) uses sodium permanganate, a strong oxidizing agent, to keep taste and odor at bay. With the unprecedented flooding in the state this year additional organic matter washed into the river system, causing additional need for the use of sodium permanganate.

The water is then pumped to Dodge where pre-treatment continues with the addition of chlorine and ammonia to form chloramines. It takes four to six days for the water to reach the WTP in Dickinson from Dodge.

(Manager's message continued on page 2)



Contruction crew works on Contract 2-8B south of Beulah placing pipeline.



(Manager's message continued from page 1)

The contact time is necessary for effective treatment using chloramines. Chloramines have always been used in SWPP water and they are more effective in disinfecting water than chlorine. Water treated with chloramines has less of a chlorine taste and odor. Chloramines have a longer residual so it lasts longer in the water and have also been found to dispel fewer carcinogenic by-products than chlorine.

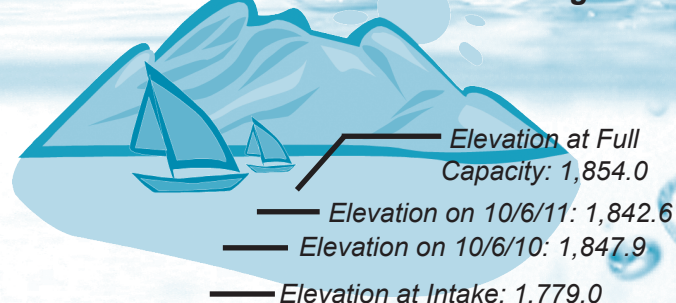
When water arrives in Dickinson at the WTP, it is clarified, softened, stabilized, filtered and disinfected again. The water is continuously tested and monitored from the time it enters our system until it comes out your tap to ensure safe, quality water to you, our customers.

This is a very brief summary of how water gets from the Missouri River, Lake Sakakawea, through 90 miles of pipeline to the WTP where it is treated for your safety. Then it is pumped out in all directions through more than 4,000 miles of pipeline to reach you each and every time you turn on the tap.

The men and women of SWA work tirelessly to be sure you have a safe, reliable, quality source of water. The water meets or exceeds the drinking water standards set forth by the EPA and the DOH, something in which we take a tremendous amount of pride.

For more information on Project progress and the need for water in southwest North Dakota, visit our Web site  
**www.swa.swc.state.nd.us**

### Lake Sakakawea Elevation Gauge



## Making another SPLASH

The 12th Annual "Make A Splash" Water Festival was held September 15 and 16 at the Dickinson Recreation Center. Children and adults alike learned about water quality, the importance of conservation and the dangerous effects of pollution. Over 400 fifth grade students from 18 schools throughout southwest North Dakota attended the curriculum during the day.

Family Night was held Thursday evening with special guests from the Roosevelt Park Zoo in Minot. Zoo staff members and their friends were on hand to present the devastating affects recent floodwaters had on the Zoo. "Our animals were evacuated to various venues throughout the region," said Kim Thompson, event coordinator, Roosevelt Park Zoo. "Cleanup has started, but it will take lots of time and hard work to get things back into shape," she explained. "Being here is good for both the animals and staff. We are ready for a positive diversion from the flood."

Southwest Water Authority has proudly sponsored this event for the past 12 years along with several other supporters including Dakota Prairies RC&D, North Dakota State Water Commission and Project WET, Dakota Community Bank, KXMA and KFYZ Television Stations, Roughrider Electric Charitable Foundation Inc., Slope Electric Trust Inc., Stark County Water Resource District and the Billings County Water Resource District and numerous other generous in-kind supporters. **Special thanks to you all...you are making a difference in the lives of many!**



**2011 "Make A Splash" Water Festival Project WET and Educational Resource Facilitators**

**Back:** Bill Gion, Mark Schneider, Tom Gibson, Bill Sharff and Rodney Stroh.  
**Front:** Rick Seifert, Sharleen Stigen, Kayleen Marmon, CaraLee Heiser and Michelle Bechtold.

## Our committed workforce

Thank you employees of the Southwest Water Authority. It is because of you that the Southwest Pipeline Project is able to bring a reliable source of quality water to the residents of southwest North Dakota.

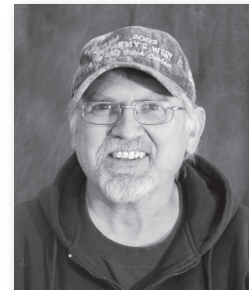
Thank you everyone...especially the following employees for their continued commitment and years of service.



**Lee Messer**  
20 years of dedicated service



**Al Hecker**  
15 years of dedicated service



**Russ Kostelecky**  
10 years of dedicated service



**Bruce Mutschelknaus**  
5 years of dedicated service



**Justin Kohanes**  
5 years of dedicated service



**Jim Murphy**  
5 years of dedicated service

### Attention Pasture Tap Customers!

You should have received a reminder letter to read your meter in October. An annual bill will be issued in November for next year's minimum fee and water usage that was reported in October.

### Attention Customers Submitting Meter Readings Via E-Mail!

Watch your e-mail for a "Thank You" reply confirming we received your meter reading. Meter readings can be e-mailed to SWA at [swa@swwater.com](mailto:swa@swwater.com).

## Becky's water notes

Becky Schafer, Customer Service Representative

Summer is a busy time for customers to hook-up. If you wish to connect to the pipeline and need your water turned on, we request at least 72 hours advanced notice. Remember, complete the Verification of Rural Water Service Connection form and give it to the operator at the time of hook-up or mail it to the address listed below prior to hook-up:



**Becky Schafer**  
Customer Service Representative

Southwest Water Authority  
4665 2nd Street SW  
Dickinson, ND 58601-7231

You must receive official notification from the Southwest Water Authority (SWA) before hooking-up. Those who enter the meter pit and/or turn on their own water, whether a customer and/or a plumber, are in violation of the rules and regulations established by the SWA. If water is turned on without notification from our office you will be fined and possibly disconnected for system tampering.

**November 11, 2011 – Veteran's Day**

**November 24, 2011 – Thanksgiving**

Southwest Water Authority will be closed in honor of the above holidays.

**Water Works** is an Official Publication of Southwest Water Authority and the Southwest Pipeline Project

**Vision Statement:**  
People and business succeeding with quality water

**Mission Statement:**  
Providing quality water for southwest North Dakota

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