2009 PROGRESS REPORT

Southwest Water Authority

Southwest Pipeline Project

BACKGROUND IN BRIEF

The Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP), a state-owned project, administered by the ND State Water Commission and operated and maintained by the Southwest Water Authority (SWA), transports raw water from Lake Sakakawea to Dickinson. There, the water is treated and delivered to customers throughout southwest North Dakota and Perkins County, South Dakota.

The North Dakota State Legislature established the SWA, a political subdivision, in 1991 to manage, operate and maintain the SWPP. A 14-member board of directors is responsible for governing the SWA. Each county within the SWPP Service Area is represented by one director and the city of Dickinson is represented by two. The counties represented include: Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Slope and Stark.

This past legislative session saw the expansion of SWA's authority and extension of its mill levy. It also saw the addition of a board member from the city of Mandan. SWA looks forward to welcoming its newest board member representing the city of Mandan on July 1, 2010.

For 24 years, the SWPP has been constructing an efficient network of pipelines, pump stations, reservoirs and treatment facilities, bringing southwest North Dakota a consistent quantity of quality water. To date, the pipeline serves 28 communities, more than 4,000 rural service locations, 14 small businesses and 15 raw water customers.

PHASED DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Current Development Phase
Medora-Beach Phase
West Zone
Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn Phase
North Zone

HIGHLIGHTS

In an effort to better serve our customers a survey was conducted by a consulting firm. Surveys were mailed to all contract and rural customers. Survey results indicated more than 50 percent of individuals ranked courtesy, timeliness and knowledge of the SWA staff as "excellent."

The North Dakota Department of Health issued the SWA certificates of compliance for successfully meeting all of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements for each of the SWA's five public water systems. SWA also received the Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the United States Centers for Disease Control (USCDC). Water floridation has been recognized by the USCDC as one of the 10 great public health achievements of the 20th Century.

Pandemic. Drought. Tornado. Floods. Preparedness is critical to succeed in today's world. In 2009 the primary focus for emergency preparedness was the pandemic flu. SWA will continue to develop effective strategies to improve the overall Emergency Response Plan in preparation for potential disasters.

In November, 2008, North Dakota became an official Water/Wastewater Response Network (WARN) state. In April, 2009, the board of directors voted to join ND WARN and sign the mutual aid agreement. This agreement will provide resources such as specialized equipment and/or staff should the need arise in a disaster situation. There are currently 19 members in the North Dakota WARN Network.

PROGRESS REPORT

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Construction is substantially complete for Phase III of the Medora-Beach Regional Service Area. Construction this past year included providing rural service to residents in the North Fairfield Service Area, the Grassy Butte Service Area, as well as the West Killdeer Mountain Pocket in northern Dunn County. A total of 426 customers are served through 396 miles of pipeline. The Fairfield Reservoir, a 197,300 gallon potable water reservoir, located northwest of Fairfield was also turned over for service in 2009. Cleanup, seed bed preparation and grass seeding are all that remain on these contracts.

With the Medora-Beach Regional Service Area being completed, the focus for the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) turns to completion of the Oliver, Mercer, North Dunn (OMND) Regional Service Area. The main transmission line from north of Zap to Hazen is underway. Bids were opened on June 25, 2009. The contract was awarded on July 24, 2009, to Titus Excavating Inc., of Bismarck, North Dakota. Construction began on September 1, 2009. Substantial completion of this contract, Contract 2-8A, is scheduled for June 1, 2010. Construction includes approximately 23 miles of 18" through 14" gasketed joint pipe, two pressure reducing valve vaults, road crossings, connection to the city of Hazen's distribution system, installation of a prefabricated meter vault and other related appurtenances.

The Water Treatment Plant (WTP) that will provide water service to the OMND Regional Service Area will be located approximately eight miles north of Zap along County Road 13. Membrane filtration and membrane softening will be used in this WTP. Membrane procurement documents have been completed and the membranes are currently being bid. Once awarded, final design on the WTP will be completed. It is anticipated that construction will begin in 2010 on the WTP.

Southwest Water Authority does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, marital status or disability in employment or the provision of services.

VISION

People and business succeeding with quality water.

MISSION

Providing quality water for southwest North Dakota.

FUNDING

In April, Senator Byron L. Dorgan, D-ND, met with the Southwest Water Authority (SWA) board of directors, management, staff and other water advocates in Dickinson, North Dakota. Discussions were held regarding the $8 million in federal funding the project received in 2009, as well as the $3 million received in 2008 and the projected $9 million for 2010.

SWA received a letter from Senator Dorgan noting that $9 million for the Southwest Pipeline Project has been included in the appropriation bill approved by the Senate in late August. This bill has already been approved by Congress and is awaiting the President's signature.

Senator Dorgan, along with Senator Conrad and Representative Pomeroy, secured $12 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for construction of the WTP which will serve the OMND Regional Service Area.

All of the aforementioned funds will come to the SWPP through the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District's Municipal, Rural and Industrial (MR&I) Program.

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