

**Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment  
Minot Water Treatment Plant Floodwall  
City of Minot, Ward County, North Dakota  
March 2014**

Public notification is hereby given by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed project in the City of Minot, Ward County, North Dakota. The City of Minot has requested Federal assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to reduce the long-term risk to the existing infrastructure in and near the Minot Water Treatment Plant due to flooding from the Mouse River. The local funding match will be provided by the City of Minot. This notification is provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Executive Orders 11988 – *Floodplain Management*, and Executive Order 11990 – *Wetland Protection*, and all applicable Federal agency implementation procedures.

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides funds for the planning and implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster event. Funding these plans and projects reduces overall risks to the population and structures, while also reducing reliance on funding from future disaster declarations. Grant applications for related projects intended to reduce the risk of future damage have also been submitted to several other federal, state and local agencies. In accordance with NEPA, an EA will be prepared to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed project on the human and natural environment.

**BACKGROUND**

The City of Minot underwent extensive emergency flood protection effort during the 2011 Mouse River flood to protect the Water Treatment Plant. The Minot Water Treatment Plant provides the sole source of potable water for the City of Minot and the Minot Air Force Base, as well as supplying multiple surrounding regional rural water systems and municipalities. While the Minot Water Treatment Plant treats primarily ground water, the City also maintains an intake on the Mouse River as an emergency supply. As the groundwater source wells lie within the Mouse River flood plain, the City must have the capability of treating river water to drinking water standards during a flood event to avoid a boil order. The existing intake facility is not protected from a flood event and is located outside of the proposed protection alignment necessitating either relocation or modifications.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed project will reduce the flood risk to the City's Water Treatment Plant, on-site potable water storage, and high service pumping station. The purpose of the proposed project is to prevent future floods from contaminating and interrupting the potable water supply during floods of similar magnitude to the 2011 flood. This will, in turn protect public health, reduce flood

recovery costs and speed recovery from flood disasters. Alternatives will be considered that evaluate ways to reduce this flood risk as part of the EA.

All required federal, tribal, state and local permits and approvals, such as a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit, will be identified in the EA and would need to be obtained prior to construction. The EA process will also include Section 106 coordination due to the Federal agency involvement for the Proposed Action.

A public comment period will remain open for 15 days following publication of this notice. In addition to this initial comment period, a final opportunity for public review and comment period will be provided when the Draft EA becomes available.

Initial comments will be accepted for 15 days from the date of this notice. Interested parties may submit comments or request additional information by contacting:

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