

Federal Emergency Management Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment
For the Minot Water Treatment Plant Flood Protection
City of Minot, Ward County, North Dakota

Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Minot Water Treatment Plant Flood Protection project.

Interested persons are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)/Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES), and the City of Minot through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) under Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-1981-DR are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Minot Water Treatment Plant Flood Protection project. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the implementing regulations of FEMA, an EA is being prepared to assess the potential impacts of each of the proposed alternatives on the human and natural environment. This also provides public notice to invite public comments on the proposed project in accordance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, and Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands. In addition, this notice and the draft EA provide information to the public on potential impacts to historic and cultural resources from the proposed undertaking, as outlined in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966.

The purpose of the proposed action is to prevent future floods (similar to that experienced in 2011) from contaminating and interrupting the potable water supply at the Minot Water Treatment Plant. The flood protection will be provided through the installation of approximately 1,720 feet of concrete floodwall and tie-back levees on each end. The project will also require two road closures structures and modifications to several stormwater drainage systems and water pipelines. The HMGP is authorized under Section 404 of the Stafford Act. As part of the HMGP Application and ongoing project development efforts, the City of Minot held a public meeting on May 28, 2014 to present the proposed project plans and gather public input. Additional public meetings may be held should public comment warrant. The draft EA is available for review between July 27, 2014 and September 1, 2014 at the Minot Public Works Office located at 1025 31st St SE, Minot, ND 58701. The draft EA is also available for review online at the City of Minot website http://www.minotnd.org/pdf/pw/DraftEA_Minot_WTP_FW071114.pdf

Written comments regarding this environmental action should be received no later than 5 p.m. on September 1, 2014, by Mark D. Aanenson, Houston Engineering, Inc. at 1401 21st Ave North, Fargo, ND at maanenson@houstoneng.com; and/or Steven E. Hardegen, DHS/FEMA Region VIII Environmental Officer Denver Federal Center, Bldg 710A, P.O. Box 25267, Denver, CO 80225 at Steven.Hardegen@fema.dhs.gov .

If no substantive comments are received by the above deadline, the draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final and be published by FEMA. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

The public may request a copy of the final environmental documents from Mark D. Aanenson at the Houston Engineering, Inc. or Steven E. Hardegen at the addresses listed above.