

Responses to Cheryl Kennedy Courcelles

Comments on the Draft Report on the Red River Valley Water Supply Project Needs and Options

Schlag, Cindy

From: Cheryl [cheryl@rainyday.ca]
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2005 3:59 PM
To: Courcelles, Donald
Subject: Fw: Garrison Diverson Sept 2005-Red River Valley Water Supply Project, ND

----- Original Message -----

From: Cheryl
To: river watch rr ; premier@leg.gov.mb.ca ; minwst@leg.gov.mb.ca ; minwsd@leg.gov.mb.ca ; mincon@leg.gov.mb.ca ; jgerrard@leg.gov.mb.ca ; Hank Henry David Venema ; gwhelan@web.ca ; Gordon Sinclair ; Glen Koroluk ; Free Press ; Ernie Gilroy ; dwilliamso@gov.mb.ca ; admin@nrtee-trnee.ca ; cheryl@rainyday.ca ; Donald Courcelles
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2005 2:50 PM
Subject: Garrison Diverson Sept 2005-Red River Valley Water Supply Project, ND

Dear Neighbours and concerned citizens,

September 30, 2005

When we take a look at the whole scope of water and honestly look at it from an Eagle eye perspective, what do we have. Severe mismanagement, disrespect and toxic abuse, certainly not globally sustainable behavior and action plans.

Until we, on both sides of the border, seriously clean up our actions, we do not have the right as humankind to play with and redirect lifes energy source of water.

Mother Nature decides where she shall send the water, period! Have we not seen these clear messages around the world in this last year?

This is like being the loud little kid in the candy or toy store saying I want more or a new one. Please, we need to have more respect for our core essential elements. From what I have read from the other Canadian reports to you on this water diversion topic, nowhere near has all the water conservation strategies been put to use or even envisioned.

Like ourselves here in Manitoba with our own severe water crisis of every kind happening, we are being forced by Mother Nature to have a good honest look at our water sustainability. You need to do the same and in 5 years come back to the table with your results and vision.

As it is now, the people in the Red River Valley on the Manitoba side, our suffering water hardships of every kind, we are stressed and full of diseases, heart conditions, suicides, internal fighting, tradition knowledge and wisdom disgarded, we no longer have safe drinking water for ourselves and our animals, we have manmade flooding, out of control misquitos infestation, foreign species invasion, too much or too little water, the Red River having to endure us playing with the water elevations overnight anywheres from one to 15 feet. The Red River is falling apart and I mean literally. The mass destruction that is happening to it in the last two years alone caused by human kind has sent this poor river back 50 years in ecosystem balancing. The wildlife is leaving its banks, we have not seen a fox for over 2 years now. Century year old trees are currently being destroyed by mans playing with the Red River. The Red River when the First Nations people where here ran clear, clean and hosted trout. What do we as advanced society have to say for our actions and proposed actions? So far, by any reports I have seen on both sides of the border, we have done nothing to sustain this critical water supply and ecosystem. We only want to create more havic and send new pollutions done its path to our deteriorating Lake Winnipeg and Hudson Bay. The Red River is our own Tsunami or Hurricane Katrina, we are sick about it and we are in a crisis state already. Put yourselves in our mocassins, they are wet and moldy already!

All options for the Garrison project run into the migratory and corridor Red River, back to the drawing board for all parties involved on both sides of the border. Until we all clean up and undo the damages we have done so far, we do not have the God given or Nature given right to play with new manmade water routes, that globally do not meet sustainable practices.

9/30/2005

Responses to Cheryl Kennedy Courcelles

Response to Comment 1

The water conservation savings estimated in the *Water Conservation Potential Assessment* and Draft Needs and Options Report are reasonable and sustainable.

Response to Comment 2

Results of a drought contingency analysis were included in the Final Needs and Options Report. If you define “sustainability” as living with the resources you have in your immediate vicinity, the analysis shows that cities such as Fargo have no “sustainable” alternatives available, because the only source of water they have in their vicinity, the Red River, dries up during a 1930s drought. ASR (aquifer storage and recovery), which is a “sustainability” feature, is considered in some alternatives.

Response to Comment 3

Reclamation does not agree with your recommendation, and it is beyond the scope of this project. The purpose of the action is to meet the “comprehensive water quality and quantity needs of the Red River Valley” [DWRA (Dakota Water Resources Act) Section 8(c) (2) (A)] through year 2050. The needs are defined by DWRA as MR&I (municipal, rural, and industrial) water supplies, water quality, aquatic environment, recreation, and water conservation measures [DWRA Section 8(b)(2)].

Reclamation evaluated these needs in the *Final Report on Red River Valley Water Needs and Options* (Needs and Options Report), which is a needs assessment and engineering study. A multi-step process was used to identify alternatives for further study in the DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement). Alternatives were formulated through a systematic process using public involvement, technical information, interdisciplinary and interagency discussions, and professional judgment. National Environmental Policy Act and Council on Environmental Quality regulations require agencies to evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives. To be considered reasonable, an alternative must: 1) meet the identified purpose and need for action, to a large degree and 2) be practical and feasible from a technical and economic standpoint. Reclamation has met the appropriate standards.

The issue of future water usage and protection, we all understand and have compassion for but let us practice what we preach. Let us clean up and properly use our own water resources within our own watersheds and then we all can come back to the table for future generational sustainability. Be leaders, Be proud, the world is watching.

I am available for further comments on this critical topic.

Let us have the courage to be the leaders that we need to be for the longevity of our existence!

Yours truthfully,


Cheryl Kennedy Courcelles

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Responses to Cheryl Kennedy Courcelles

Response to Comment 4

Our analysis shows that cities such as Fargo have no “sustainable” alternatives available, because the only source of water they have in their vicinity, the Red River, dries up during a 1930s drought. ASR, which is a “sustainability” feature, is considered in some alternatives. Potential in-basin and out-of-basin options were also considered.

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