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For more information, contact:
Mark Lyman, project public information
857-7205, 701-630-1443
mlyman@odney.com

**Groundbreaking marks start of \$25 million in flood protection
for Minot's Water Treatment Plant**

Minot, N.D. - Dignitaries from all levels of government broke ground today on a flood protection project that will provide permanent protection designed to prevent floods similar to 2011 from impacting the Minot Water Treatment Plant. Minot Mayor Chuck Barney was joined by U.S. Sen. John Hoeven, North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple, FEMA Region VIII Acting Administrator Sharon Loper, NDDDES Major General David Sprynczynatyk and others in moving the first shovels of dirt on the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)-Water Treatment Plant flood protection project.

"The Minot flood of 2011 forced thousands of people to boil their water before using it because it was contaminated by high water," said Hoeven. "Now we're taking steps to reduce the chances of that happening again. While we still have more work to do, we've made great strides in restoring Minot and improving our infrastructure to protect against another flood, and we'll continue to do that, project by project."

"Providing permanent flood protection for Minot continues to be a high priority for the state and protecting the region's water resource is an important part of those efforts," said Dalrymple. "We have been working closely with the City of Minot to develop a plan to protect the Minot Water Treatment Plant and will continue to work to implement comprehensive flood protection for the area."

"Today marks the day where we truly begin to be a more resilient community," said Barney. "We're planning ahead so that when the waters rise again, we can concentrate our efforts fighting to save neighborhoods instead of worrying about infrastructure."

"Minot's Water Treatment Plant is truly a regional resource, as it provides safe, reliable water for numerous communities in north central North Dakota," said Dan Jonasson, City of Minot public works director. "We're pleased that by protecting this critical piece of infrastructure, we are protecting one of the most important parts of our everyday life, our water source."

"FEMA is pleased to share in Minot's remarkable comeback from the 2011 floods," said Loper. "This grant demonstrates the agency's ongoing commitment to help Minot and the entire Souris Valley become a model of disaster recovery."

The City of Minot awarded the construction contract to Wagner Construction in August, for a total cost of \$24,716,528. The HMGP-Water Treatment Plant Project is designed to prevent future floods from contaminating and interrupting the potable water supply production and transmission at the Minot Water Treatment Plant. This work includes the construction of 1,720 linear feet of concrete floodwalls on the south side of the Mouse River, near the plant. These floodwalls will tie into two new temporary roadway closure structures at 16th Street SW and Water Treatment Plant Road (12th Street SW). Earthen levees and the adjustment of intake structures at the treatment plant are also part of the project.

The HMGP-Water Treatment Plant Project will provide for protection to the flood of record, plus freeboard. Protecting the plant with these funding sources is being done as an independent utility project.

The various government partners on the project are sharing the costs. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program through FEMA allows for a federal share of 75% of actual costs, with the State of North Dakota's share at 10% and the City of Minot's share at 15%.

Project construction is set to start in 2015 and finish by the middle of 2017.

For additional information or questions related to this project, please contact Mark Lyman, at 857-7205 or mlyman@odney.com or Bob Lindee, at 857-4727 or pio@minotnd.org.

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