

NAWS water flowing to Kenmare

By JILL SCHRAMM, Staff Writer, Minot Daily News jschramm@minotdailynews.com

POSTED: December 9, 2009

KENMARE The City of Kenmare began filling its reservoir with water through the Northwest Area Water Supply project Tuesday.

Kenmare is getting water from Minot through a NAWS pipeline built this summer.

Mike Thompson, street superintendent in Kenmare, said the city drew down its existing water in the reservoir before starting the fill process with NAWS water at noon Tuesday. The 250,000-gallon, underground tank was expected to take about 14 hours to fill.

The changeover to the new water began Monday with flushing of water from the reservoir and hydrants. Thompson said the frigid temperatures required more careful discharge, but the city was able to fill its skating rinks.

The next step will be to draw down water in a 50,000-gallon, above-ground tank and fill it with NAWS water. Then the process of flushing lines will begin. By the end of the week, residents should be getting NAWS water through the city system, Thompson said.

During the flushing, residents might find some sediment in the water. People can reserve some water for drinking before flushing occurs, although Thompson said the sediment should clear if people let the water run from the tap for a while.

Kenmare will get about 100,000 gallons a day of NAWS water, which will cover about 80 percent of its needs at this time of year, Thompson said. The city will blend the water with its existing well water. Kenmare's water has been borderline in meeting federal standards for arsenic, which has forced the city to look at water alternatives.

As of Tuesday afternoon, the Minot Water Treatment Plant had not felt the extra demand from Kenmare, plant superintendent Jason Sorenson said. The water going to Kenmare is coming through Berthold and a storage reservoir that NAWS has there. The Minot plant is able to replenish any draw-down in NAWS reservoirs at night or during other periods of low demand on its production capacity. Kenmare's water use will be too small to have much effect on the treatment plant, Sorenson said.

Next summer, a reservoir under construction near Kenmare will be finished. It will supply water to the NAWS system for the Kenmare area and northern reaches of NAWS territory. Kenmare also plans to erect a new 250,000 reservoir next summer to replace its smaller tower.