



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 110
Lewistown, Montana 59457

April 23, 2007

Mr. Brian Milne
Interstate Engineering, Inc.
P.O. Box 648
Sidney, MT 59270-0648

Dear Mr. Milne,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the proposed location of the intake structure and pipeline for the Dry Redwater Regional Water Authority. The proposed location, according to the map supplied in your letter dated March 14, 2007, is acceptable to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Charles M. Russell NWR staff. As stated during the conference call and in our letter dated November 14, 2007, the FWS will need to issue a Right of Way for all improvements that cross the Charles M. Russell NWR. Before a Right of Way can be issued the FWS will need to conduct a Compatibility Determination to ensure that this project is compatible with the mission of the FWS and the purpose of the refuge. We look forward to receiving the necessary information to proceed with developing the Compatibility Determination and processing your request for a Right of Way.

Again I want to thank you and the Board members for working closely with us on determining the best possible location for the pipeline and intake structure. I look forward to working with your staff on developing the necessary environmental documents to ensure this project will not impact any resources of the refuge. By working cooperatively I believe we can mitigate any potential impacts to refuge resources.

Please feel free to contact me at 406-538-8706 ext. 221 if you have any questions or would like to schedule another meeting to discuss this project. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Barron Crawford
Barron Crawford
Refuge Manager

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cc: John Daggett, US Army Corps of Engineers, Ft. Peck Lake Project