

NEWS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | April 24, 2023

Sovereign Land Permits Approved for the Replacement of a Missouri River Rail Bridge

BISMARCK - On April 24, 2023, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) issued Sovereign Land Permit Nos. 2095 & 2398 to Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company, subject to permit conditions, for construction of a new rail bridge over the Missouri River between Bismarck and Mandan in Burleigh and Morton Counties and the proposed removal of the existing rail bridge.

The Missouri River is a navigable water body and therefore sovereign lands of the State. The State takes title to the bed and banks of the Missouri River up to the ordinary high water mark. North Dakota Administrative Code § 89-10-01-04 provides that each project located either partially or wholly on sovereign lands requires authorization from the DWR prior to construction.

The DWR held two information-gathering public meetings in Bismarck, one for each application, to receive additional information for the DWR to consider in its application review. DWR has reviewed all application materials and comments and has approved both applications.

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