



TRENTON WATER USERS COOPERATIVE

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North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept 408
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0480



RE Case Numbers DM-25-158, DM-25-159 and DM-25-160

We are responding to the complaints made against Trenton Water Users Cooperative by Graydon Olson of AE2S Engineering.

During the period that Mr. Olson put in the One Call tickets, TWUC was without an operator and had been advertising for this position. There was some miscommunication between the office staff and a contract laborer who did go and mark lines if a One Call order came through. As soon as it was communicated, Dale Donovan, our contracted laborer, did in fact mark the lines with flags and spray paint on a Sunday afternoon. We are unclear if he cleared them from the system or just put the paperwork on the business office desk. His wife accompanied him this Sunday afternoon. Shortly thereafter, we received another storm which would have covered the spray-painted markings. During this 6-month period while looking for a new operator, our business office staff member had let many daily operation issues sit on her desk. We in fact found many discrepancies that when investigated called for separation from the TWUC in April 2025.

In August 2025, our new operator Mel Olson received another request to mark these same lines for AE2S. He did in fact go mark the lines and reported that the flags were still there from the previous marking completed. Mel is very helpful with AE2S allowing them to take photos of our as-builts for their project of running water lines through the area that TWUC has.

We believe this is another tactic by Northwest Rural Water District which has been ongoing since the beginning of the state created the wholesale water suppliers. TWUC has in fact had water supply lines going back to the 1980s and purchases water from the City of Williston and has a contract with an option to extend to the year 2049. Since the creation of the wholesalers, TWUC has now fallen within the water district of Northwest Rural Water District. NWRWD and their engineering firm AE2S has consistently tried numerous ways to

force TWUC to purchase water from them instead of the City of Williston. Yearly we must fight for our small community, and this seems to be another fight.

We do regret that we did not get the lines marked on the first one-call notice. When the laborer was made aware, he marked those lines on a Sunday accompanied by his wife. Those lines again were marked in August 2025 by Mel Olson, our employee who states to this day, the flags are still there from the original one-call tickets.

I hope this helps to provide a narration on what is happening within our little community. We do have a very good operation on staff now and it is safe to say that the one-call tickets are being answered as they come. We take responsibility for not attending to the tickets that the complaint was filed about in a timely manner.

Respectfully,



Alfred Slater, President

Trenton Water Users Cooperative