

Bismarck (AP) - Zurn Engineers of Upland, California, submitted the apparent low bid of \$3,845,000 Wednesday for construction of the water system that will supply the Safeguard antiballistic missile complex in North Dakota.

Zurn was the lowest of 17 bidders on the project, which the Army Corps of Engineers had estimated would cost \$5,700,727. All bids will be reviewed by the corps district office at Omaha, Nebraska, and a contract awarded.

Once the winning contractor is told to proceed, he would have 270 calendar days to complete the 59 mile water system.

The work calls for 59 miles of 6-12 inch pipe, ten pumphouses with pumps, three booster stations to keep water pressure up, a chlorination system, five reservoirs, and a wood frame instruments building.

The water will flow from 10 pumps that already have been dug north of Fordville. The line will run north to near Edinburg where it will branch out to send one line to a radar site near Nekoma and another on north to a radar site near Concrete.

Lt. Col. Vernon Davis, resident engineer for the corps at the ABM headquarters at Langdon, said the major construction contract would be bid March 26 at St. Paul. He estimated the cost of that contract at about \$100 million.

Zurn was followed in the bidding by a joint venture of Hawkins Construction Co. and Korshoj Construction Co. of Nebraska, at \$3,918,605. The bids then ranged to as high as \$7,670,000 by Chaney and Hope, Inc., Dallas, Texas.