North Bay tapping into innovative water facility

For the 54,000 residents of North Bay, Ontario, the tap water will soon be safer than ever. That's because the city council approved initial funding to design and build the city's water filtration plant.

CH2M HILL Canada won the $32 million contract because of: its crystal clear comprehension of Ontario regulatory requirements; its experience with cutting-edge processes for disinfecting urban water systems; and its track record in helping Canadian cities minimize water facility energy consumption while maximizing limited site resources. Construction will be completed by 2005.

The new plant will use membrane technology for both primary and secondary stages to improve the security of the city's water supply and prepare the city to comply with future drinking water regulations. Pilot testing of membrane systems from four manufacturers will begin early this summer.

A visitor information facility will display educational information to the general public. A tour route is incorporated into the facility, allowing visitors to view the treatment process either by static display exhibits, interactive computer displays, or short videos. The city hopes that this educational feature will make the plant an identifiable community asset providing safe, high-quality drinking water, blending into the neighborhood and educating the public.

Scenic Trout Lake is the water source for North Bay, Ontario.