**ASCII Files README**

The files listed below are supplemental to the USGS SIR SIR 2014–5047 titled “Hydrogeologic Framework of the Uppermost Principal Aquifer Systems in the Williston and Powder River Structural Basins, United States and Canada” and should not be used without an understanding of what the files represent. To read the methods used to derive the data contained in these files, please read the “Methods” section of SIR 2014–5047.

**Converting ASCII files to raster files:**

If you are unsure how to convert the ASCII files to digital rasters, use the GIS tool “ASCII\_to\_ProjectedRaster” included in the ASCII\_Files folder. This tool will reproject the original ASCII text files into a digital raster projected in user-specified coordinate system. The tool can be used in ArcGIS from either ArcCatalog (by navigating to the appropriate folder and double-clicking on first the “ASCII\_to\_ProjectedRaster” toolbox and then the “ASCII\_to\_ProjectedRaster” tool) or from ArcMap (by right-clicking in the “ArcToolbox” window and selecting “Add Toolbox”).

The geographic datum of the original data is North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83), so if the output coordinate system is something other than NAD 83, a geographic transformation will have to be specified in the tool’s GUI. There is a window included in the GUI with a dropdown menu that will be filled with appropriate transformations if needed.

**File Contents:**