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Rural Development

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NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT HOLDS EARTH DAY CELEBRATION IN BERGER

Terry Luetkemeyer, Area Director of USDA Rural Development, hosted a ground breaking ceremony with the City of Berger officials on Thursday, April 23, 2009. The ground breaking ceremony was held to celebrate Earth Day and the beginning of construction on new sewage collection and treatment system to provide service to 208 residents which will greatly improve the health and sanitary conditions of the City. USDA Rural Development partnered with the Missouri Department of



Economic Development and the Missouri Development Finance Board to provide the funding for this project.

U.S. Senator Christopher (Kit) Bond said, "It only makes sense to celebrate this new project on Earth Day. It is critical that we safeguard our environment and the health of our communities and adequate sewage collection and treatment systems are an important part of that effort." Senator Bond continued, "Thank you to the local leaders and USDA Rural Development staff, whose hard work made this project a reality."

"Celebrating Earth Day is a time to stop and think about how important it is to take good care of our planet," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "It's important to protect our water sources while also making sure that Missourians have access to clean, safe water, and this project plays a role in that effort."

Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO-9), stated, "Ensuring that our rural families have clean water is critical to the health and well-being of our communities and I want to commend those who have worked so hard to help make this project a reality. We are all committed to improving

Pictured left to right: Terry Wilson, District Commissioner, John Schmich, Cochran Engineering, Jenni Riegel, Southern Regional Director for U.S. Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer, Chris Boone, Cochran Engineering, Ed Hillhouse, Presiding Commissioner, Lisbeth Fields, Alderwoman, Kurt Unnerstall, Contractor, Gene Eckelkamp, Contractor, Terry Luetkemeyer, Area Director, Rural Development, Donna Martin, Area Specialist, Rural Development, LaVerne Sprick, City Clerk, Betty LeSeure, Compliance Specialist for Missouri Department of Economic Development, Terry Black, Mayor, Bryan Dirks, Alderman, Milfred Elfline, Alderman, Alfred Eggert, Alderman.

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the quality of life for our rural families and communities and this project is an excellent example of how working together can help accomplish that.”

Terry Black, Mayor of Berger, said, “We are on our way to a cleaner and more prosperous future for Berger.”

“We are pleased to be able to provide financial assistance with our partners at the Department of Economic Development and USDA Rural Development in helping to provide wastewater improvements to the City of Berger. We look forward to seeing this project complete and know that it will positively impact the quality of life for your residents” added Bob Miserez, Executive Director for the Missouri Development Finance Board.

“This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of a community in providing essential services,” said Luetkemeyer. “This project mirrors USDA, Rural Development’s mission of being committed to the future of rural communities. I am pleased that so many rural households will benefit from an adequate and dependable sewer system.” Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available the federal funds for funding these projects.”

Anyone interested in obtaining information regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Donna Martin at the Area Office at the Farmington, MO by calling 573-756-6413, Ext. 5.

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