



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$715,000 TO THE CITY OF FISK

The City of Fisk, Missouri, received a \$715,000 Mock Check from Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development on Friday, April 25, 2008, during a ceremony at Fisk City Hall. The funds will be used to make improvements to the City's wastewater lagoon to insure the City meets current regulatory requirements. The funding announcement was part of many Earth Day events held across Missouri. Earth Day is being celebrated across the Nation to acknowledge and unite communities, organizations, and the U.S. Government for their accomplishments in providing environmentally safe living conditions to rural residents.

"It is critical that we help our small rural communities provide families with adequate waste disposal systems. This money will help the City of Fisk meet this important basic need while safeguarding the environment for future generations," said U.S. Senator Kit Bond.

"On Earth Day we should remember that it our responsibility to keep surroundings - our air, our forests, and our water - as clean as possible," said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill. "Ensuring that water collection and treatment facilities are updated helps to keep our environment clean for future generations and to provide clean water for Missouri's families. I'm glad to see federal dollars helping our communities to do just that."

The wastewater treatment facility for the City of Fisk was constructed in 1976 and currently serves 159 households in the eastern part of Butler County. The facility has exceeded the lagoon's 20 year life expectancy. When faced with the need to upgrade, the City of Fisk contacted the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to ensure that any upgrades would be able to meet the city's future treatment needs. The proposed upgrades include repairing the existing lagoon with a cover, installing a new aeration system and installing a reactor for ammonia removal. These upgrades will satisfy the current and future needs for the City of Fisk, and help the treatment facility comply with new environmental standards.

"I am very glad that the wastewater treatment facilities in Fisk will get the upgrades it needs. USDA Rural Development programs exist exactly for this purpose: to identify urgent areas in our rural infrastructure where investment is needed and then to respond. I appreciate their involvement in this effort, which will have a positive effect on the lives of every citizen in Fisk, and I'm thankful that our



Pictured-back row, left to right: David Stinson, MO Dept. of Natural Resources; Melody Fry, City of Fisk; Pam Anglin, USDA Rural Development; Felicity Brady, Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission; Roger Williams, Smith & Company Engineers; Dr. Greg Batson, Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission. Front row, left to right: Jackson Bostic, MO Dept. of Natural Resources; Rob Mayer, State Senator; Morris Westfall, USDA Rural Development; Susan Williams, Mayor, City of Fisk; Phyllis Minner, USDA Rural Development; Gayle Kingery, State Representative; Don Evans, City of Fisk; Camille Bruce, Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission

congressional delegation joins me in its support for Rural Development programs," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

"These upgrades will help the city to not only meet their current wastewater treatment needs, but also meet the future permit requirements," said Missouri Department of Natural Resources Director, Doyle Childers, "Through proactively working with the Department of Natural Resources, the city will be able to better protect the local environment through proper treatment of the City's wastewater."

"This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of an environmentally safe waste disposal system," said Westfall. "This project mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. I want to personally thank everyone that has worked together to make this project a reality. I am pleased that so many rural households will benefit from an adequate and dependable waste disposal system. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available the federal funds for funding this kind of project providing essential services to the residents of the City of Fisk."

The funding for the wastewater lagoon improvements is provided through USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental program. Funds are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, special purpose districts (Public Water Supply Districts and/or Sewer Districts) and non-profit corporations unable to obtain funds from conventional sources at reasonable rates and terms. This program provides loans, grants and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities in rural areas, cities and towns of 10,000 or less.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in rural communities. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development has invested over \$76.8 billion since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

Further information regarding any of the USDA Rural Development programs is available by contacting the Dexter Rural Development Office at 573-624-5939, ext. 4, or by email at phyllis.minner@mo.usda.gov. Rural Development's web site is: www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo.

Committed to the future of rural communities."

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).