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## Rural Development

# NEWS RELEASE

Contact

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$552,000 TO PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT #4 OF HENRY COUNTY

The Public Water Supply District #4 of Henry County, Missouri, received a \$552,000 Mock Check from USDA Rural Development on Thursday, April 26, 2007, during a ceremony at the Water District Office. The funds will be used to construct a 200,000 gallon elevated storage tank and install a new generator for the existing pump station. 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

the communities, organizations, and the U.S. Government for their accomplishments in providing environmentally safe living conditions to rural residents.



Left to :Kurt Compton, Operator; Bob Hagedorn, Ike Skelton's Office; Olive K. Wells, Urich City Council; Joyce Crump, Office Manager; Kelly Gregory, RD Area Director; Carolyn Kelsay, Board President; Barbara Puckett, Urich City Council; Rober Gibson, Board Member; Gene Hunt, Board Member; Linda Cyrus, Midwest Assistance Program; R.D. Colvin, Urich City Council; John Oelklaus, Larkin Group; Fern Kelsay, Part-time employee; Mel Stewart, Mayor of Urich; Greg Branum, RD State Director; Jeff Heidrich, Larkin Group; Bill Kelsay; Jack Conner.

The water district presently provides water to 382 rural residential users and the cities of Urich and Blairstown, Missouri. The District was formed in the early 1990s and consists of 133 miles of water line, a pump station house which has booster pumps, three meter vaults and a 100,000 gallon standpipe. Due to residential growth in the District's service area there continues to be more demands on the system. When this project is complete the Water District will be able to provide a more dependable, safe, and potable water throughout this rural area at reasonable rates for its customers.

“It is great to be a partner in a project that will enable the Public Water District #4 to better serve the people of Henry County. The local leadership and the USDA Rural Development staff are to be commended for their dedication and hard work to make this project a reality,” said Senator Kit Bond.

“I believe continued investment in Missouri’s rural communities is a vital part of our state’s economic future. This project will update critical infrastructure important to those living in Urich and Blairstown and parts of Henry County, and ensure that residents have access to a clean, reliable water supply.” said Senator Claire McCaskill.

U. S. Congressman Ike Skelton said, "I am pleased that USDA has awarded Henry County, Missouri, with critical financial backing for the expansion of its water system. Through the years, I have seen firsthand how our national investment in rural development has yielded positive results for Missouri. In the days ahead, we must redouble our efforts on behalf of rural America, ensuring small town leaders have access to the capital they need."

“Access to a safe and dependable water facility is a fundamental necessity to each of us,” said Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development. “Rural Development is committed to working with Water Districts like Public Water Supply District #4 of Henry County to provide essential services to rural Missouri. I want to commend the Water District for making this project a reality. The project mirrors USDA Rural Developments mission and President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities.”

Tony O’Malley, Larkin Group, Consulting Engineers of Kansas City designed the water project and will be providing construction oversight as the Project Engineer. It is anticipated that the project will seek construction bids within the next three months.

Branum added, “Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services to the residents of Public Water Supply District #4 of Henry County.”

Anyone seeking more information about the water and wastewater programs or any other USDA Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.gov/mo> or by contacting the Clinton Area Office at 1306 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Clinton, MO 64735 or by calling (660) 885-5567- ext 5.

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