



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Stan L.Wolfe, St. Joseph Area Specialist Telephone (816) 364-3767 (extension #5)

N.W. ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC. RECEIVES \$52 MILLION IN USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

During an October 16, 2006 ceremony, USDA Rural Development presented a Mock Check in the amount of \$52,802,000 to N.W. Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. at the cooperative's office in Cameron, Missouri. These funds will be used to increase and improve the cooperative's power transmission infrastructure. N.W. Electric's electrical transmission system takes power generated by Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. and provides it to the individual distribution cooperatives.

"I'm proud to have supported this project," said Congressman Graves. "I am thankful for the excellent working relationship my office has with USDA Rural Development team, and I look forward to our continued work in the future."

"This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities," said Gregory C. Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development. "Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative Sam Graves for making available federal monies for funding these types of projects that provide essential services for communities."

"Our transmission system serves over 85,000 homes and businesses in rural northwest Missouri; it's an aging system that needs to be rebuilt to keep the service reliability up to the standards our members have come to expect," said Don McQuitty, CEO of N.W. Electric Power Cooperative. "The cooperatives appreciate the efforts of Congressman Sam Graves and rest of the Missouri delegation to keep the rural electrical program funding at a level that benefits rural Missouri so we can grow and meet the needs of our membership."

In the USDA's Rural Electrical program for fiscal year 2005, a total of \$334.7 million was provided in Missouri for electrical distribution, generation and transmission projects. It is estimated that over 250,000 Missouri rural residential consumers benefited from the electrical program.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides funding and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by



Left to right: Emily Seifers (Field Representative for U.S. Senator Jim Talent), Brad Lager (Missouri State Representative for District #4), Jim Guest (Missouri State Representative for District #5), U.S. Representative Sam Graves, Don McQuitty (Chief Executive Officer of N.W. Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.), Scott Wilson (President of the Board of Directors of N.W. Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.) and Stan Wolfe (Area Specialist with USDA Rural Development at St. Joseph, MO)

visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or contacting Stan L. Wolfe, at the St. Joseph Rural Development Area Office, 3915 Oakland Avenue, St. Joseph, MO 64506 or by calling (816) 364 - 3767 (extension #5).

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“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

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