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NEWS RELEASE

USDA Rural Development Provides Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company with \$7.2 Million for Broadband Service in the Green City Telephone Exchange

GREEN CITY, Missouri – July 9, 2010 –Janie Dunning, USDA Rural Development State Director in Missouri was in Green City, Missouri, and presented Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company (NEMR) with \$7.2 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) loans and grants to expand broadband access. The funds are being administered through USDA Rural Development.



Pictured left to right: Gary Godfrey, General Manager, Northeast Missouri Mutual Telephone Company, Janie Dunning, Missouri Rural Development State Director; Brook Valentine, Representative from Senator Claire McCaskill’s office; and Richard Morgan, Board President, Northeast Missouri Mutual Telephone Company

"After last week’s broadband forum, it is clear how important increasing broadband access is to Missouri’s rural communities." said U. S. Senator Claire McCaskill. "Broadband Internet

means jobs and economic development, as well as great improvements in healthcare, public safety, and education. This investment from the stimulus funds will help boost businesses and communities in rural Missouri."

"We are pleased to assist the Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company in providing broadband service to the Green City area," said Dunning. "Building a broadband infrastructure is critical to creating jobs and economic opportunity in rural America. With investments in broadband, we are fostering innovation and bringing more rural communities into the digital age."

NEMR through their Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) project will receive a \$3,595,810 loan and \$3,595,810 grant. This funding will provide greater than 20 Mbps broadband access to the residences, businesses and community organizations in the Green City, Missouri telephone exchange. This will create the potential for increased business growth, public service, public safety and quality of life for the residents of Green City.

NEMR's general manager, Gary Godfrey stated, "Our telephone cooperative was formed in 1952 and we have always strived to provide the communications services our customers want at reasonable rates. High speed broadband has become an essential service. This project will greatly expand broadband capabilities and enhance business growth, public safety services and the quality of life for residents in the Green City area. It will be a huge economic boost for our rural community."

President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 into law with a vision of knowing it will help America. The act was designed to jumpstart the nation's economy, create or save millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century.

One part of this act is to fund projects that will provide broadband access to Americans nationwide. These funds will put people to work constructing new facilities, erecting towers to transmit signals and high speed broadband services installed in homes, businesses and community education, safety and public health centers. But the investments will also foster long-term economic growth.

The \$7.5 billion provided by the Recovery Act to help expand broadband will benefit tens of millions of Americans and more than 685,000 businesses, 900 health care facilities and 2,400 schools in all 50 states.

Contact USDA Rural Development

Further information on programs available through USDA Rural Development is available by visiting the agency's web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov.

USDA Rural Development has seven offices across Missouri to serve citizens living in rural communities. Office locations include a State Office in Columbia, along with Area Offices in St. Joseph, Kirksville, Clinton, Farmington, Springfield and Dexter. For more information about finance programs through USDA Rural Development, please call the state office located at (573) 876-0976.

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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).