



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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## SMITH CELEBRATES BRIDGEPORT'S \$5.4 MILLION WATER PROJECT

**BRIDGEPORT, Neb., August 16, 2008** – United States Congressman Adrian Smith, Rural Utilities Programs Administrator James Andrew and Nebraska State Director Scot Blehm, both of USDA Rural Development, presented a ceremonial check today to the City of Bridgeport totaling nearly \$5.4 million. The monies will provide for a new water system and distribution updates that will bring the community's water system, serving nearly 1,600 residents, into compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

"I am committed to protecting the future of our rural communities and having access to a safe, secure water supply is imperative," Smith said. "These funds will allow Bridgeport to continue to provide a dependable public water supply to its residents."

USDA Rural Development funding consisting of a \$4,560,000 loan and \$791,000 grant will develop three new wells, an ion exchange water treatment facility, transmission main between the new well field and treatment facility and a sanitary sewer and dilution well for treatment plant waste water. Additionally, the existing distribution system will be upgraded with new water meters and reading equipment, fire hydrants, and water main upsizing and replacement. The City of Bridgeport's water contains high uranium levels causing the water system to be placed under Administrative Order by the Nebraska Health and Human Service Department of Regulation and Licensure.

"Rural Development is pleased to be able finance compelling projects such as Bridgeport's water system, through the additional funding generously provided by the Congress in this year's Farm Bill," Andrew said. "We are working hard every day to address the water and waste system needs in rural America and improve the health and well-being of its residents."

"Treatment options, development of a new well field and connecting to surrounding community water systems were explored with the City to resolve their water issues," stated Specialist Roberta Mues, USDA Rural Development. "After we reviewed these options, it was determined that the development of a treatment facility would be the best course of action."

Contact Roberta Mues, USDA Rural Development at (308) 534-2360 or (402) 437-5093 (TDY); 1202 S. Cottonwood, Suite 3, North Platte, Neb. Visit [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne).

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