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Ohio—Rural Utilities Service

Regional Collaboration

Pike Water Taps into ARRA Funding to Purchase New “Radio Read” Meters

Outline Of Need:

Pike Water, Inc. (PWI) owns and operates a public water system that serves an estimated rural population of 20,000 with a customer base of 6,000 customers. PWI provides water service to the majority of the unincorporated areas of Pike County, a small portion of northeastern Adams County, south-central Ross County, southwestern Jackson County, and southeastern Highland County.

The average day and peak day production is approximately 1.4M gallons and 1.8M gallons per day, respectively. Pike Water was organized in 1970 and initially went into operation in 1972 with the assistance of the USDA Farmers Home Administration. Since their beginnings, the water company has added nearly 500 miles of water line ranging in size from 2” through 12”.

How Rural Development Helped:

With the assistance of USDA Rural Development’s Water and Environmental Programs (WEP), Pike Wa-



ter purchased up-to-date “radio read” meters to gain the operating efficiencies the Board of Directors desired to provide safe affordable water to its rural customers.

The Results:

Pike Water was reading meters manually using existing man-power and fossil fueled vehicles. This task required 10 to 14 days to complete and made tracking potable water usage difficult.

Additionally, the costs to own, operate and maintain a fleet of trucks to drive the system and manually read the system was an ongoing drain of the company’s bottom line.

A large percentage of the meters in the system were in excess of 20-30 years and had been in operation beyond their useful life. These factors resulted in inaccurate readings and decreased billings from the water customers.

Fast Facts

Program: Water and Environmental Programs

Investment:

- \$595,000 loan funds
- \$255,000 grant funds

Congressional District: OH-02

Demographics:

- Pike County, Ohio
- Population: 28,709 (2010 Census)

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