



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Vermont —Rural Utilities Service

Community Building

New Community Water System Will Allow Rural Village to Grow

Outline Of Need:

Community leaders in the rural town of Waitsfield, Vermont worked for years to develop a community water system to serve the two villages within their borders. Situated between the Interstate Highway and several popular ski areas, their community was highly susceptible to scattered development and sprawl.

They also faced the pressure of an expanding business district for the small shops and restaurants needed to support both the year round residents and seasonal ski area visitors.

Without community water or wastewater systems, they lacked the primary tools to promote and encourage reasonable growth. In addition many existing



properties faced imminent health risks associated with inadequate isolation distances between their on-site wells and septic systems.

How Rural Development Helped:

In March of 2007 the town completed preliminary engineering for both a new water and wastewater system. The high cost of both projects, however, was not supported by the residents and in November of 2008 the town passed a public bond vote to fund only the new water system. In April of 2009 Rural Development funding in the amount of \$5,514,000 was secured to fund the project.

The Results:

Today the new water system is nearing completion of the construction phase and residents are looking forward to hooking up to a safe, reliable drinking water supply and reduced fire insurance rates. Businesses are looking forward to the ability to expand and install sprinkler protection if needed. Community leaders are looking forward to an expanded tax base and a future of responsible, proactive growth in their identified growth centers.

Fast Facts

Program: Water and Environmental Program

Investment: \$3,014,000 Loan and \$2,500,000 Grant

Partners: EPA (STAG Grant), Phelps Engineering, State of VT Agency of Natural Resources

Demographics:

Rural Population—1,659

Impact:

- Fire protection for village homes and businesses, including the ability to install sprinkler systems for businesses and public buildings
- Safe and reliable drinking water
- Eliminated need for bottled water at elementary school
- Infrastructure to support business growth and retention in the growth center

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