



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT-ALASKA FILLS KEY POSITIONS

PALMER, January 8, 2009-Acting Alaska State Director for USDA Rural Development Chad Padgett announced today that two key positions have been filled in the state office in Palmer. Deborah Walker has been selected to serve as Rural Development Administrative Officer and David Livingston will fill the newly created position of State Appraiser Walker and Livingston are both residents of Palmer.

“USDA Rural Development touches the lives of thousands of Alaskans every day, but it takes quality, dedicated Federal employees to accomplish our goals. These professionals will make a valued contribution to our team and we are proud to welcome them to our agency,” said Padgett.

Deborah Walker began her Federal career in 2001, working in the administrative field for the Justice Department in Anchorage and for the Department of Homeland Security. She has over 20 years of paralegal experience and formerly worked in the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office Civil Division in Seattle.

David Livingston has worked as an appraiser since 1983. He holds certified general appraisers licenses in Alaska and Oklahoma and is an Associate of the Appraisal Institute. He formerly worked as an appraisal analyst for the Municipality of Anchorage and is a graduate of the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Since 2001 Rural Development has invested an estimated \$1.2 billion in Alaska for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. In addition to the State Office in Palmer, USDA Rural Development maintains offices in Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Kenai, Nome and Sitka. Further information on rural programs is available at any USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ak> .

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