



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **USDA Rural Development Celebrates Grand Opening of Water Treatment Plant in South Amana**

*Project One of Eight USDA Rural Development in Iowa is Recognizing To Celebrate Earth Day*

SOUTH AMANA, Iowa – April 22, 2009 – Representatives from USDA Rural Development today participated in grand opening ceremonies for Poweshiek Water Association’s new water treatment plant in South Amana, located in eastern Iowa.

“We are very excited to be celebrating with Poweshiek Water Association for this water-improvement project,” said Karla Peiffer, Community Programs Director for USDA Rural Development in Iowa, “We believe community enhancement efforts are important to the sustainability of rural America.”

USDA Rural Development provided Poweshiek Water Association with nearly \$5 million in loan funds for the construction of the plant that will provide water service to Conroy and surrounding communities and areas in Iowa County.

The new plant will have the capacity to treat up to 1 million gallons of water per day, with expansion capacity up to 2.4 million gallons. The facility will enable Poweshiek Water Association to meet current system needs, as well as provide future growth to their system.

USDA Rural Development also recognized Poweshiek Water Association for 25 years of dedication and efforts to provide high quality water service, their contribution to economic development and their work as a partner to provide improved standards of living for rural residents in Iowa.

### **Celebrating Earth Day**

Earth Day, which was first recognized in 1970, is celebrated each year on April 22 as a way to renew a commitment of caring for all of the earth’s natural resources and helping prepare the environment for future generations. Rural communities and businesses in Iowa play a key role in building a safer, healthier and cleaner world.

During the past year in Iowa USDA Rural Development provided nearly \$50 million in loans and grants to assist with financing water and wastewater projects in 35 rural communities to help protect Iowa’s rivers, lakes and streams.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”  
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The agency also provided \$15 million to more than 160 rural businesses and producers to assist with energy-saving and renewable energy projects including 15 large and small wind turbines, 18 geothermal heating and cooling systems, 125 more efficient grain-drying systems and four biomass projects.

“All of our programs are voluntary, so we are always on the lookout for individuals and groups wanting to grow in rural Iowa,” Peiffer said. “Our mission is to deliver programs in away that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents.”

### **Contact USDA Rural Development**

USDA Rural Development has 11 offices in Iowa that serve 1.9 million Iowans living in rural communities. Office locations include a State Office in Des Moines, along with Area Offices in Albia, Atlantic, Humboldt, Indianola, Iowa Falls, Le Mars, Mount Pleasant, Storm Lake, Tipton and Waverly.

As a venture capital entity, USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

Further information on programs is available at the local USDA Rural Development office in Tipton, which can be reached at (563) 886-6006, or by visiting [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia).

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