



NEWS RELEASE

1303 SW First American Place, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66604-4040
Voice (785) 271-2701, FAX (785) 271-2708, WEB www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 24, 2007

Contact - Harold Alford (785) 271-2701

City of Greensburg Water Tower Project Receives USDA Rural Development Funding 100,000 Gallon Water Storage Tower To Be Built

Greensburg, KS – State Director Chuck Banks today presented Greensburg City Administrator Steve Hewitt and other city officials with a ceremonial check for \$170,000 in Agency funding approved under the USDA's *Water and Waste Disposal Program* for replacement of the water tower that was destroyed by the May 4, 2007 tornado. The project is a cornerstone to the city's rebuilding efforts.

"USDA Rural Development's rural water funding program is one of the most important community and economic development efforts this Agency administers. These USDA funds for Greensburg, combined with the Agency's technical assistance which supports local leadership, helps make critically needed water service a reality. Water is the most basic need to help support community and economic development in rural Kansas. These valuable USDA programs promote economic growth and enhance the quality of life for the area residents served by these projects and all of Kansas," commented State Director Banks.

"Each day, the people of Greensburg are one step closer to rebuilding their community," Congressman Jerry Moran said. "Replacing the city's water tower is an important component of that effort. I thank Director Banks and USDA Rural Development for their important role in the rebuilding process and in the lives of Greensburg residents."

USDA Rural Development funding approval for Greensburg will consist of a \$170,000 grant and will be leveraged with \$57,000 City contribution, \$252,750 FEMA funding, \$112,000 Insurance proceeds, \$50,550 Kansas Emergency Funds, and \$33,700 in KDEM funds. The total project cost will be \$676,000. The City's contribution was made possible by funds donated by Rotary Club, South Central Community Foundation, and from funds donated by Kansas cities and rural water districts from across the state thru the Kansas Rural Water Association.

City Council President Gary Goodheart commented, "The water tower funding is a good example of the great support we have from our funding partners and their willingness to come together to help us rebuild. This project represents our message that Greensburg is building back and it will be stronger and healthier than it was before the disaster."

During the announcement, State Director Banks thanked the various funding partners who worked together on the project. Banks also thanked the Kansas Congressional Delegation for their continued support of the Agency's *Water & Waste Disposal Program*, along with the many other USDA Rural Development programs. Over the past six years, USDA Rural Development has invested over \$154 million in funding for rural water and wastewater projects, programs which have helped support an estimated \$2.3 billion in rural economic development for the State of Kansas and benefited nearly 135,000 Kansans. We should all thank our U.S. Senators and Representatives for supporting this benefit to the entire State," remarked Banks.

(continued)

Press Release

Page 2

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunity and improving the quality of life of the State's rural residents. The Agency provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development has also delivered over \$1 billion in Kansas covering all Agency programs, supporting over \$5 billion in economic development for the Sunflower State. For additional information regarding all USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Agency at 785-271-2700 or visit the Agency's Kansas website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks .

USDA Rural Development – *Committed to the Future of Rural Communities.*

- end -