



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

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Contact- Harold Alford (785) 271-2701

Midwest Energy, Inc. Receives USDA Rural Development Funding Approval Fire Station To Be Built In Colby

Topeka – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks congratulated Midwest Energy, Inc. of Hays, KS on the selection of their application to receive Agency funding to establish a revolving loan fund. The Midwest Energy, Inc. grant, totaling \$300,000, will provide financing to help support the construction of a new fire station in Colby. Total cost of the project will be \$2,767,000, leveraged with \$200,000 applicant contribution and \$2,467,000 in general obligation bonds issued by the City of Colby.

State Director Banks commented, “These business development funds will help support important local efforts to bring added economic growth and employment opportunities to Colby and surrounding counties. The loan, also supported by the technical assistance from Midwest Energy, Inc. and USDA Rural Development, underscore our Nation’s continued commitment to promote community and economic development for rural America.”

The new facility replaces the fire station heavily damaged in the December 2006 winter storm. The new fire station will have 17,000 square feet of main floor with eight apparatus bays, two offices, bathrooms with showers, training room, day room, watch room, bunk room, reception/waiting room, and mechanical/electrical support areas. There will be a designated area on the main floor for storm-protection.

Banks further stated, “USDA Rural Development would like to thank Midwest Energy for their continued participation in this excellent program. This program is good for our communities, it is good for the Kansas economy, and it is good for rural Kansans working to create a better life.”

Since 1998, USDA Rural Development has invested over \$31 million in funding for rural economic development projects, programs which have helped support an estimated \$77 million in rural economic development for Kansas and benefited 90 businesses with over 2,200 jobs created or saved in the State.

Under the *Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program*, the Agency will make a zero-interest loan to the local rural utility cooperative. Upon receipt of the loan proceeds, following execution of loan documentation and meeting the conditions of the Program, the cooperative will then pass the loan proceeds on to the local applicant to finance job creation efforts. Funds can be used for a variety of purposes, including community facilities and infrastructure, improving access to local medical care and other projects that encourage a favorable climate for job creation and economic growth.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for rural Americans. 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 in rural America. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development has delivered over \$1.2 billion for Kansas covering all Agency programs, supporting well over \$6 billion in future economic development for the Sunflower State.

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