



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 8, 2009

Contact- Harold Alford (785) 271-2701

Kansas Water Projects Selected For USDA Rural Development American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding *Recovery Act Funds Will Help Rural Economy and Create Jobs*

Topeka — USDA Rural Development State Director Patty Clark congratulated the seven Kansas recipients who may receive \$25,219,500 for water and environmental projects, recently announced by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. The Kansas water projects have been selected by USDA Rural Development to be funded by federal appropriations, provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the terms of the loan or grant agreements, and the letter of conditions.

USDA Rural Development's *Water and Environmental Program* is one of the most important community and economic development efforts the Agency undertakes for rural Kansas. These USDA funds, combined with the Agency's technical assistance which supports local leadership, helps make these critically needed services a reality. It is important that rural Kansans keep pace with their basic need to have access to safe and reliable water sources. Additionally, this valuable USDA program promotes economic growth and enhances the quality of life for the area residents served by these projects and all of Kansas.

The seven Kansas projects selected for funding by USDA Rural Development follow:

City of Fall River, KS - \$473,000 (\$268,000 direct loan and \$205,000 grant) This project will consist of installing water lines, fire hydrants, and repairing the existing ground storage tank. The old cast iron portions of pipe are weak and brittle with increasing leaks. Most of the systems valves are inoperable and the 1950's fire hydrants can no longer be relied upon. The system serves 156 residents. USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with an applicant contribution of \$8,000.

City of Hoisington, KS - \$879,000 (direct loan) The existing system is in need of significant repairs to assure a safe and reliable water system for the City. The City has prioritized and is addressing the needs of the treatment plant, well house, new meters, and standpipe in the proposed current project. The City's water system will serve 2975 residents.

City of Lakin, KS - \$4,377,000 (\$3,129,000 direct loan and \$1,248,000 grant) The primary purpose and benefit of this project addresses a major problem with quality issues of the existing water supply. The project will construct a new treatment plant, utilize a reverse osmosis system to remove uranium and nitrates, and developing a deep injection well to dispose of the treatment plant by-products. This water supply will benefit 2320 residents. USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with an applicant contribution of \$43,000.

City of Oswego, KS - \$4,962,000 (\$2,487,000 direct loan and \$2,475,000 grant) Funding of the first phase of a two phase project will be used to correct line deficiencies and eliminate potential lead contamination issues and current problems with maintaining chloride residuals. The project will directly benefit 2050 residents, along with the rural residents served by six rural water districts that purchase water from the City of Oswego.

(continued)

City of Rozel, KS - \$764,500 (\$384,000 direct loan and \$380,500 grant) The water supply system for Rozel consists of three wells. Low water pressure, odor complaints, discolored water and plugging of the meters, service lines and house fixtures is a direct result of the extremely high concentrations of iron and manganese in the water from all three City wells. In order to correct the poor quality issues, the best solution is to replace Well No. 1 which is over 40 years old, and pipe the wells together and treat the water using a pressure filter process. The water supply system will benefit 180 residents. USDA Rural Development funding will be leveraged with an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Community Development Block Grant of \$372,000.

City of St. George, KS - \$1,550,000 (\$1,350,000 direct loan and \$200,000 grant) Funding of this project, which will benefit a population of 430 residents, will be used to construct a new mechanical Aero-Mod Dequoz wastewater treatment plant, upgrade the existing lift station, and install a sewer line to connect the treatment plant to the collection line. The plant is designed to treat the existing amount of waste to meet all current regulations. The plant will also allow for future population growth without making major modifications, and can be easily adjusted to meet any future changes to water quality standards.

Spring River Public Wholesale Water Supply District No. 19, Cherokee County, KS - \$12,214,000 (3,328,000 direct loan and \$8,886,000 grant) Agency funds will help to provide a solution to the growing issues of water quality and quantity in Southeast Kansas for approximately 5,800 rural Kansans utilizing the wholesale water supply district. The project will construct a water treatment plant with intake structure on the Spring River, transmission lines to connect 5 member entities and a line to an alternate source in Baxter Springs. A 200,000 gallon elevated storage tank and booster station are also part of the project.

USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental Program provides loans and grants to ensure that the necessary investments are made in water and wastewater infrastructure to deliver safe drinking water and protect the environment in rural areas. For additional information regarding USDA Rural Development and its programs, log onto the Agency's website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks or call the USDA Rural Development state office at 785-271-2700.

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

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