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## **CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON NEW WATER WELLS Federal, State, and Local Officials Attend Groundbreaking Ceremony in Natchez**

NATCHEZ, January 12, 2009 – USDA Rural Development State Director Clyde Holloway joined state and local officials today to break ground for three new water wells and water mains for Natchitoches Waterworks District 2.

“Safe, clean drinking water is essential,” said Holloway. “Over 2,400 water system users depend on Natchitoches Waterworks District 2 to provide a ready supply of clean, safe drinking water. These new wells and mains will ensure the water supply meets user needs.”

The \$4.9 million construction project is being funded by a combination of federal, state, and local dollars. USDA Rural Development is providing a \$1,003,000 loan, as well as a \$760,000 grant; the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund is providing \$3,060,113, as well as interim financing for the USDA Rural Development loan; and Natchitoches Waterworks District 2 is providing \$171,000 in funding for the project.

The federal funding is provided through USDA Rural Development’s water and waste loan and grant program. Public bodies, non-profit organizations, and recognized tribes may qualify for assistance through this program for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste, and storm drainage facilities in rural areas.

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. The USDA Rural Development State Office is located in Alexandria, and Area Offices are located in Monroe, Natchitoches, Lafayette, and Amite. Further information on USDA Rural Development’s loan and grant programs may be obtained by visiting USDA Rural Development’s web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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