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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUNDING GENERATORS Rural Water and Waste Systems Will Benefit

ALEXANDRIA, February 12, 2009 – Rural water and waste systems are now eligible to apply for USDA Rural Development project funding for stand-alone generators. In the past, generator funding was only available as part of a larger water or waste project; for example, a water or sewer system expansion which included back-up generators as part of the project.

A recent change in procedure now allows water or waste systems in rural areas that have experienced power outages of at least 24 consumer hours during one of the last five years to apply for USDA Rural Development funding to purchase a stand-alone generator.

As part of the application process, the rural water or waste system must obtain verification of consumer hour power outages from their electric provider and submit the power outage verification to USDA Rural Development with the application for funding.

During the past five years, Louisiana's rural water and waste systems have suffered substantial power outages due to hurricanes and other storm events, leading to loss of water and waste services for rural residents. The new procedure will allow these systems to apply for funding for generators which help them be better prepared for future disaster events.

Public bodies, non-profit organizations, and recognized tribes may qualify for assistance through USDA Rural Development's water and waste loan, loan guarantee, and grant program for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste, and storm drainage facilities in rural areas.

For more information on this funding opportunity, contact your local USDA Rural Development Area Office:

Monroe Area Office – (318) 343-4467, extension 6
Natchitoches Area Office – (318) 352-7100, extension 6
Lafayette Area Office – (337) 262-6601, extension 6
Amite Area Office – (985) 748-8751, extension 6

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. 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>.

USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender, provider, and employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9140.