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## **TWO AREA WATER SYSTEMS PREPARE FOR MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS Congressman Rodney Alexander Joins State Director Clyde Holloway to Celebrate Progress**

PINEVILLE, April 28, 2008 – Congressman Rodney Alexander joined USDA Rural Development State Director Clyde Holloway and area officials near Pineville today to break ground on water system improvements for Buckeye Water District 50 and present funding for water district improvements to Fifth Ward Water District.

Buckeye Water District 50 is located throughout the northeast portion of Rapides Parish; while Fifth Ward Water System serves the unincorporated areas in and around Fifth Ward in Avoyelles Parish.

Buckeye Water District 50 will use over \$1.6 million in USDA Rural Development direct loan funding to construct a new 500 gallons-per-minute water well, a 1,000,000-gallon ground storage tank and pumping station, an 83,000-gallon ground storage tank and pumping station, and a new transmission system. In addition to USDA Rural Development funding, Buckeye will also use \$500,000 from the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals Drinking Water Revolving Loan Funds, as well as \$406,000 in water district funds for improvements to the water system.

Fifth Ward Water System is receiving over \$2.1 million in USDA Rural Development direct loan funds, as well as over \$1.6 million in USDA Rural Development grant funds to replace a water production well, replace existing pumps and motors, construct new water transmission mains, and replace and enlarge existing water mains.

“Today’s celebration is part of USDA Rural Development’s continuing celebration of Earth Day—officially celebrated worldwide on April 22,” said Holloway. “Each year, during April, USDA celebrates by spotlighting projects and initiatives that will improve the environment and help rural residents.”

“Our federal investment of over \$5.4 million in these projects will ensure rural residents of Rapides and Avoyelles Parishes continue to have access to clean, safe drinking water,” said Holloway.

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