



NEWS RELEASE

Rural Development

3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302 • <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/la>

Release No.: 05212003-1

Contact: Holly L. Martien, (318) 473-7917
holly.martien@la.usda.gov

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON \$5.4 MILLION CENTRALIZED PUBLIC WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT SYSTEM Over 1,000 Residents of Concordia Parish to Benefit

VIDALIA, May 21, 2003 – A groundbreaking ceremony today formally signaled the start of construction of Phase I of a new centralized public wastewater collection and treatment system in Concordia Parish. This system will serve more than 1,000 Concordia Parish residents.

Eddie Turner, Chairman of the Concordia Parish Sewerage District No. 1, was joined by State Representative Bryant Hammett and other state and local officials to mark the occasion.

“The new system will improve the old sewer treatment facility in Ridgecrest and add new collection lines and lift stations to serve more households,” said Turner. “Residents can expect to see improved services by May 2004.”

Phase I was funded by over \$5.4 million in USDA Rural Development Rural Utilities Service loan and grant funds. The Rural Utilities Service provides loans, grants, and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste, and storm drainage facilities in rural areas and cities and towns of 10,000 or less.

“Projects such as this will help improve the quality of life for the people of Concordia Parish,” said Michael B. Taylor, State Director, USDA Rural Development. “Not only will this make a difference to the people already living in Concordia Parish, the improved services will attract new residents and businesses to the area.”

USDA Rural Development has invested an additional \$5.8 million for Phase II of the project—which, when constructed, will bring sewage service to an additional 253 residential and nine commercial users. Phase II of the project is scheduled to begin construction in the near future.

-more-

**CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON \$5.4 MILLION
CENTRALIZED PUBLIC WASTEWATER
COLLECTION AND TREATMENT SYSTEM**

5/21/03

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. The Louisiana Rural Development State Office is located at 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302, and the telephone number is (318) 473-7921. There are four area offices, located throughout the state to serve Louisiana residents. Further information on USDA Rural Development's loan and grant programs can be obtained by visiting 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.

#