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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **BIG IMPROVEMENTS IN STORE FOR AMITE'S WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS**

### **Recovery Act Funds Awarded for New Water Well and Sewer Lift Stations**

ALEXANDRIA, August 4, 2009 – A plentiful source of drinking water and an improved, sanitary sewer system are now secure for the Town of Amite City—thanks to Recovery Act funding from USDA Rural Development. This week, the town received over \$5.8 million in funding to complete these projects.

The Amite funding is part of an announcement made by Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan on Monday spotlighting the selection of \$154.8 million in water and environmental projects that are being funded with federal funds provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that President Obama signed into law in February.

"The 36 Recovery Act water and wastewater projects we are announcing today further the Obama administration's goal to rebuild and revitalize the nation's rural infrastructure," Merrigan said. "These projects will put people to work, improve the health of families and communities, and make a down payment on a better environment for the future."

Amite received \$2,262,000 in loan funds and \$1,793,000 in grant funds to improve the town's sewer system. Sewer system improvements include upgrading lift stations, installing new lines, multiple point repairs, installation of manholes, and modifications of existing manholes. Once complete, these improvements will ensure safe, sanitary sewer conditions.

Amite also received \$1,750,000 in loan funds to improve the town's water system. Water system improvements include construction of a new water well, installation of water meters, installation of water service tubing, and installation of inline valves. The new well and other water system improvements will ensure a plentiful source of clean, safe drinking water for the residents of Amite.

This funding is being administered by USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental Program which 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. Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the terms of the loan or grant agreement.

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USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. Area Offices are located in Monroe, Natchitoches, Lafayette, and Amite; and the State Office is located in Alexandria. For more information on USDA Rural Development's loan and grant programs, visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/la>.

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