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GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW WATER SYSTEM IN STARKS USDA Rural Development Provides Over \$6.2 Million to Fund Construction

STARKS, November 14, 2007 – Community leaders and water system supporters were joined today by USDA Rural Development State Director Clyde Holloway to break ground on a new water system that will serve over 775 users in northwest Calcasieu Parish—many of whom currently use private water wells for water.

Construction of the new water system will include approximately 548,000 linear feet of water distribution lines, 960 water meters, 60 fire hydrants, 50 flush hydrants, two water wells, a pump building, a 150,000-gallon ground storage tank, and a 250,000-gallon elevated water storage tank.

The new water system was funded by \$2,599,000 in USDA Rural Development loan funds and \$3,660,600 in USDA Rural Development grant funds. Holloway presented the funds to the water district during groundbreaking ceremonies today.

“USDA Rural Development offers affordable financing to rural communities for development, improvement, and expansion of rural water systems,” said Holloway. “It took many people working together to make this project possible—and we are proud to be a part of it.”

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

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