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NEWS RELEASE

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES \$143 MILLION FOR RURAL WATER PROJECTS

*“Recovery Act Funds Will Help Improve Infrastructure Across Rural America
And Assist Four Missouri Communities”*

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the selection of nearly \$143 million in water and environmental projects that are being funded immediately through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The projects will help provide safe drinking water and improved wastewater treatment systems for rural towns and communities in 21 states.

“President Obama’s investments in these projects will ensure that residents have reliable drinking water in addition to helping local economies thrive as a result of the improved infrastructure,” said Vilsack.

In Missouri, \$7,986,900 will be invested in four communities including: \$1,737,000 for the City of Martinsburg’s 174 residents in northeast Missouri to construct a new water supply well, transmission water main, upgrade the wastewater treatment facility detention pond and a land application system plus an addition to the sanitary sewer collection system; \$4,830,000 for the PWS #1 of McDonald County in extreme southwest Missouri for the 125 residences and 20 businesses for the City of Jane for wastewater collection mains and lift stations to collect and transfer wastewater to the Bella Vista Treatment Plant; \$776,000 to the Village of Leonard in rural northeast Missouri to construct a new centralized wastewater collection and treatment system and a land application for a sanitary sewer system for the sixty-four families; and \$643,900 for the City of Frankford’s 351 residents in east central Missouri to reduce the pollutants in the wastewater treatment facility outflow to improve the quality of water for the area.

USDA Rural Development’s Water and Environmental Program 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. More information about USDA rural Development can be found at www.rurdev.usda.gov. Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the terms of the loan or grant agreement.

President Obama signed The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 into law on Feb. 17, 2009. It is designed to jumpstart the nation’s economy, create or save millions of jobs and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The Act includes measures to modernize our nation’s infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

More information about USDA's Recovery Act efforts is available at www.usda.gov/recovery. .
More information about the Federal government's efforts on the Recovery Act is available at www.recovery.gov.

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“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

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