



NEWS RELEASE



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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING TO IMPROVE WATER SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE IN NORTH DAKOTA

Funding used to deliver quality drinking water to northwest North Dakota

BISMARCK, June 25, 2010 – USDA Rural Development State Director Jasper Schneider today announced that two water infrastructure projects in McKenzie County and on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation have been awarded over \$7.3 million in loans and grants to construct pipelines that will distribute quality drinking water to rural customers. The projects, funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act), will improve water system infrastructure in North Dakota.

“It is vital to the growth of our communities that residents have access to safe drinking water,” Schneider said. “New technology is being used to create sustainable water systems and reduce the risk of water borne illnesses.”

- McKenzie County Water Resource District (MCWRD) has been selected to receive a \$2,191,000 loan to deliver water to approximately 140 residential, commercial and industrial users in eastern McKenzie County. MCWRD will use Recovery Act funds to construct approximately 180 miles of transmission and distribution lines, a 500,000 gallon storage reservoir and bulk fill station and pumping stations. The funds will also be used to purchase and install bulk user master meters and telemetry equipment. The total project cost is \$8,521,000 with additional funding provided by North Dakota State Water Commission and the US Army of Corp of Engineers.
- Fort Berthold Rural Water has been chosen to receive a \$3,652,000 loan and a \$1,555,079 grant to distribute water purchased from the City of New Town to 253 new rural users on and off of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. The funds will be used to construct approximately 50 miles of pipeline and install a Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) system for the new facilities. The completion of this project is crucial to the present and future viability of the North Segment of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. There are approximately 2,500 users on the Fort Berthold Rural Water System. The total project cost is \$5,207,079.

The funding announced today 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. Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the terms of the loan or grant agreement.

To date, USDA has announced \$2.67 billion in Recovery Act funds for water and environmental projects, and this summer, over 700 clean USDA water projects nationwide will be underway compared to approximately 250 last summer.

Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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