

NAPOLEON WATER AND WASTE PROJECT CHOSEN 2009 EARTH DAY PROJECT

NAPOLEON, April 22, 2009 – Marking the 39th anniversary of Earth Day, the city of Napoleon was chosen the 2009 Earth Day project to represent ND as part of a nationwide celebration.

During Earth Day activities today, the USDA Rural Development Acting State Director Donald Warren presented a banner to the city of Napoleon for their willingness to participate during today's activities.

During the past 20 years, the city of Napoleon, population 857, has experienced shortages of water supply, sagging and cracked sewer pipes, root growth, mineral deposits and infiltration. Sample water tests indicated excessive manganese and iron levels exceeding the National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations.



The city received a funding package for \$4 million in loans and grants to replace a deteriorating, low-pressure water distribution and sewer system. A new system will be installed with new water and sewer mains, along with two new wells, and a new water tower circulation system. a modern water and waste water system will supply sufficient water pressure for daily needs to this rural community.

A \$4 million funding package was awarded the city to help pay to construct new water and sewer mains, install two new wells with emergency power backup, and a new water tower circulation system along with rehabilitating the wastewater treatment facilities serving the Napoleon area.

In Fiscal Year 2008, USDA Rural Development provided **\$38.1 million** in housing programs, **\$54.7 million** in business and community programs, **\$577.5 million** in electric programs, and **\$17.9 million** in telecom programs to North Dakota residents.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$111 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 2 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.