



# NEWS RELEASE

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## FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN BROADBAND GOOD FOR COMMUNITIES

MAYVILLE, August 15, 2007—Agriculture Rural Utilities Program Administrator for Rural Development James Andrew joined North Dakota State Director for Rural Development Clare Carlson today in recognizing Polar Telcom for their pioneering spirit in the expansion of broadband facilities.

Polar Telcom, a subsidiary of Polar Communications Cooperative and located in Mayville and Portland, received a \$3,358,752 loan from the USDA's Rural Development.

“USDA's Rural Development Utilities Programs' \$3 million investment in broadband for North Dakota's rural communities, like reliable and affordable electric power, water and wastewater facilities, is essential to an economically competitive rural America,” said Andrew.

The USDA's Rural Development provided a \$3,358,752 broadband loan to Polar Telcom, through a pilot program, to place Hybrid Fiber Coax facilities to provide voice, internet, digital video, and DSL to residential and business customers in the Mayville and Portland areas.

Since the completion of the project, a local office was established in Mayville to serve both communities.

The Broadband Access Loan program provides loans for funding the costs of construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities to provide broadband service to eligible rural communities.

In Fiscal Year 2006, USDA Rural Development provided over **\$56.6 million** in loan and grant financing to North Dakota citizens.

USDA Rural Development is the lead federal entity for rural economic and community development needs. It administers financial and technical assistance through a network of state Rural Development offices, various non-profit and educational institutional partners, and its national office.

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

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