



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
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Granville, April 22, 2004. . In recognition of the 34th Anniversary of Earth Day, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today is announcing the funding of 62 new rural water and wastewater community systems totaling nearly \$198 million benefiting more than 122,000 households and businesses with new or upgraded systems. One such project is the city of Granville, located in the heart of the CONAC REAP Zone.

Today in a ceremony celebrating Earth Day, USDA Rural Development State Director Clare Carlson presented a symbolic check for \$256,300 to the City of Granville.

“Today we congratulate the community for making the improvements to the city’s sewer system which will ensure safe and dependable sanitary sewer services to the residents of Granville,” Rural Development State Director Clare Carlson said. “On this Earth Day 2004, we take the opportunity to highlight what USDA’s Rural Development and the Bush Administration are doing for our environment through their community water and wastewater infrastructure programs.”

The funding package represents a Rural Development Utility Program grant for \$151,700 and a loan for \$104,600. The monies will be used to construct a new wastewater lagoon cell, the expansion of two existing cells, the installation of a lift station, and construct a force main from the lift station to the new cell.

This wastewater project is a positive step for Granville in two ways. Granville has taken the initiative to protect the aquifer from contamination that is brought on by sewage seeping out into the groundwater, and this project will also improve the economic infrastructure and expand job opportunities for all who live in the city.

Total cost of the project is estimated at \$366,300, with additional funding provided by a Community Development Block Grant through Souris Basin Planning in the amount of \$110,000.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal entity for rural economic and community development needs. Its mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. It administers financial and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development and critical community and technology infrastructure.

In Fiscal Year 2003, USDA Rural Development provided over **\$73.5 million dollars** in loan and grant financing to North Dakota citizens. For more information, please visit our web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

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