

Making Utilities Safe and Affordable Through Federal/State Participation

Outline of Need:

The waste disposal and treatment system for the Village of Cook was in need of updates and repairs. Additionally the system was not meeting the needs of the community. The collection system, built in 1946 and consisting of clay pipe, was experiencing excessive infiltration and inflow problems. This caused overloading of the lift station and lagoons as the lift station received all the wastewater flows from the collection system and pumped it to the lagoons. With the undersized pumps, the inflow could not be adequately handled thus causing sewage backups and improper discharging of the lagoons. The Village's three-cell lagoon system was discharging effluent without a discharge permit from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, the lift station was at the end of its useful life, maintenance costs were significant, and replacement parts difficult to find, action needed to be taken.

How Rural Development Helped:

A wastewater improvement project estimated at over \$1.1 million was needed for this community of 333 residents. USDA Rural Development provided a \$480,200 loan and \$207,100 grant to the Village of Cook, joined by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of \$250,000 and a State Revolving Loan (SRF) of \$100,000 and grant of \$100,000. This funding made the repairs and rehabilitation to the existing wastewater system affordable.

The Results:

The residents of Cook, Nebraska will have an updated wastewater collection and treatment system that will be more efficient, manageable and reduce the amount of maintenance and operational costs. The improvements will provide the residents with user rates at an affordable level. USDA's commitment to Federal and State level cooperation is effective in rural Nebraska--making projects like this a reality.