

RURAL DEVELOPMENT DOLLARS HELP RIDE THE STORM OUT

Outline Of Need: The Lower Republican Natural Resources District (NRD) requested federal funds to complete a rural water district system as both quality and quantity of water in the area were poor. The district line runs from Franklin, Nebraska to the Village of Guide Rock with rural residences being hooked up along the way.

How Rural Development Helped: Rural Development assisted the Lower Republican NRD with a \$565,000 loan and \$1,302,100 in grants to install the entire water system to include water mains, meters, a tower, generator, etc. The Lower Republican NRD contributed \$59,950 towards the project; with the Village of Guide Rock contributing a connection fee of \$1,295,100. The rural water district costs totaled \$3,222,150.

The Results: A dependable supply of quality water now flows into the 144 hookups that the rural water district supports, 85 of which are rural residences serving 500 residents and the remaining 59 are pasture hookups for 2,000 head of livestock.

In late December 2006, a substantial portion of south central Nebraska was hit with a snow storm one weekend followed by an ice storm the next that left thousands of residents and communities without electricity. The power outage affected both residents and livestock.



“Lower Republican NRD was very pleased to obtain the USDA Rural Development funds for the water system,” stated Mike Clements, general manager for Lower Republican NRD. “The storm helped to provide an excellent selling point for the effectiveness and importance of rural water systems.”

When power was lost, the generator which is a component of the rural water system, kicked in, keeping the water flowing to the affected hookups. The generator ran continuously for 13 days before electricity was restored to the water system and in many cases it ran past

that timeframe as many areas did not receive power for a longer period of time. The rural water district obtains their water from the City of Franklin. The City’s generators had also powered up immediately aiding in the uninterrupted delivery of water.

Affected households received potable water with which to drink, cook, to use for their lavatories and to keep the livestock watered thanks to the generator. Use of the water system generator offered many residents the opportunity to devote their personal generators to heating their homes.

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