



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
Federal Bldg. 200 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43215

Phone: (614) 255-2394 • Fax: (614) 255-2559 • TDD: 800-877-8339 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

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Contact: Michael Jones 614-255-2394

michael.jones@oh.usda.gov

Rural Development and Village of Corning Celebrate \$6.5 Million Earth Day Project

COLUMBUS, OHIO, April 20, 2007 – Rural Development State Director Randy Hunt and Village of Corning Mayor Leroy Azbell joined residents to help celebrate this year's Earth Day by dedicating a \$6.5 million Earth Day waste water treatment project.

"Rural Development is participating in Earth Day celebrations like this one all across the nation today," said Hunt. "As a matter of personal and organizational responsibility we should all do whatever we can to help improve the environment. Congratulations to all village residents for your commitment to improving your community's environment and enhancing your quality of life."

Rural Development awarded \$4.5 million towards the project, the Ohio Public Works Commission contributed \$800,000, the Ohio Department of Development provided \$500,000, the Appalachia Regional Commission added \$250,000, the U.S. Army Corps supplied \$109,000 and Strategic Tribal Assistance Grant contributed \$96,200. The funding will be used for the construction of a central waste water collection and treatment system in the village. The new system will serve 280 users within the Village of Corning and 22 users in Monroe Township in Perry County.

An investigation uncovered untreated water at several village residences and documented the need for the new treatment system. State regulatory representatives encouraged the village to correct the unsafe conditions. Rural Development, along with other partners listed above became involved in crafting the financing package which financed for the new treatment system.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal entity for rural development needs, and administers program assistance through three agencies: Rural Housing Program, Rural Business-Cooperative Program, and Rural Utilities Program. Further information on USDA Rural Development can be obtained by contacting any USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

For additional information the Earth Day event please contact Michael Jones at 614-255-2394.

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