



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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USDA Rural Development Partners with Appalachia Water Projects Total More than \$77 Million, Helps 25,000 Families

COLUMBUS, OHIO, Feb. 20, 2007 – Randall Hunt, state director for USDA Rural Development announced approval of a \$12,577,000 financing package to fund the construction of a new water treatment plant in Clermont, Ohio. The recipient of the loan is the Tate Monroe Water Association, Inc.

“This financial package is certainly one of our larger community investments this year,” said Hunt. “We’ve worked with the Tate Monroe Water Association before and are delighted to be able to help Clermont County residents improve the quality and supply of their drinking water.”

Total cost of the project is \$19,436,000. The funds will be used for the construction of a new 2 million-gallon-a-day (mgd) water treatment plant that can be expanded to 6 mgd as demand requires. The water system serves approximately 8,974 customers throughout Clermont County.

Clermont County is located in Ohio’s Appalachian region where Rural Development targets a significant portion of its funding. “Additional Appalachia water projects recently funded include \$22 million to Jackson Water Company in Jackson County, \$18.2 million to Le-Ax Water District in Hocking County and \$20 million to the Buckeye Water District in Columbiana County,” said Hunt. “These four projects total \$77.7 million, help provide clean, safe water for more than 25,000 Appalachian families and keeps us focused on our mission of delivering essential services to rural Americans.”

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

Further information on rural programs is available by calling 614-255-2400, visiting a local USDA Rural Development office or by viewing USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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