



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA Rural Development Funds Portage County Water Project

COLUMBUS, OHIO, Feb. 16, 2007 – Randall Hunt, state director for USDA Rural Development announced today approval of a \$1,766,000 financing package to fund the construction of additional wastewater treatment capacity in Portage, Ohio. Portage County is the recipient of the funding.

“Financing construction of facilities that provide a clean, healthy, safe environment for rural residents is a priority for Rural Development,” said Hunt. “Rural Development’s Water and Waste Disposal Program is another resource available to help ensure Ohioans basic quality of life needs are satisfied.”

Total cost of the project is \$2,204,800. Portage County contributed \$438,800 to the financing package. The funds will be used to construct sanitary sewers along State Route 44 in Randolph Township; providing service to 104 new customers. Treatment will be provided by the new wastewater treatment plant that was recently completed to serve the unincorporated area of Randolph Center.

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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