



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: (614) 255-2554 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.govohj>

Release # 02-07-03

Contact: Michael Jones 614-255-2394

michael.jones@oh.usda.gov

USDA Rural Development Funds Local Water Project

COLUMBUS, OHIO, Feb. 16, 2007 – Randall Hunt, state director for USDA Rural Development announced today 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 the Appalachian region where Rural Development continues to target a significant amount of its funding. Additional water projects in Appalachia include \$22 million to Jackson Water Company in Jackson County plant, and an \$18.2 million water plant for Le-Ax Water District in Hocking County. These three projects total \$57.7 million and provide clean, safe water for more than 20,000 Appalachian families.

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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