



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA Rural Development Finances \$6.5 Million Construction of New Tuscarawas Water System

COLUMBUS, OHIO, July 6, 2007 – Randall Hunt, state director for USDA Rural Development announced today approval of a \$6,574,000 financing package to construct a new water distribution system for Tuscarawas County, Ohio. The funding comes from Rural Development's Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program.

"Tuscarawas County officials have continually gained more experience with using our programs," said Hunt. "Their ability to plan for present and future community needs has provided positive returns to county residents. Rural Development is proud to be a partner in these kinds of critical local infrastructure projects."

The funding will be used for the construction of a water distribution system which will include a booster station and a 150,000 gallon storage tank. The project will interconnect the subsystems of Wilkshire Hills and Mineral City and provide an emergency connection to the Village of Magnolia. The project will provide service to 160 homes in the Sandyville area.

Total funding for the project is \$7,214,000 and includes a \$4,930,000 loan and a \$1,644,000 grant from Rural Development. The Ohio Public Works Commission contributed \$400,000 while Tuscarawas residents added \$240,000 through tap fees.

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 home ownership, 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 Rural Development's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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