



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA Rural Development Finances \$1.6 Million Expansion of Mahoning County Sewer System

COLUMBUS, OHIO, May 21, 2007 – Randall Hunt, state director for USDA Rural Development announced today approval of a \$1,602,000 financing package to expand the sewer system for Mahoning County, Ohio. The funding comes from Rural Development's Water and Waste Disposal Direct Loan Program.

"We've worked with Mahoning County to help them access the necessary funding from Rural Development programs," said Hunt. "Expansion of the county's sewer system furthers their strategy of improving and increasing servicing capacity for the county's residents."

The funding will be used for the construction of a gravity sewer collection system that will connect to an existing county-owned treatment plant near New Middletown. The project will provide service to approximately 153 residential users and 12 commercial users in the Petersburg area.

Total funding for the project is \$4,703,000. Contributions to the project include: Rural Development with a \$900,000 loan and \$600,000 grant package, Mahoning County provided \$651,000, which included a \$500,000 HUD Community Development Block Grant and the Ohio Public Works Commission added a \$450,000 grant.

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's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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