



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA AWARDS \$266.6 MILLION IN ELECTRIC LOANS *Consumers in Nine States Will Benefit*

WASHINGTON, May 21, 2008 —Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr today announced that nine rural electric utilities have been selected to receive a total of \$266.6 million in loans to make system improvements. The funding is being provided through USDA Rural Development's Utilities Program to finance the construction and/or repair of nearly 3,700 miles of transmission and distribution lines benefiting more than 46,000 consumers in nine states.

"The funds provided through these loans will enable cooperatives to upgrade and modernize their distribution systems, guaranteeing dependable service for years to come," Dorr said.

Loan funds will be used for a variety of upgrades. For example, Lumbee River Electric Membership Corp. in Red Springs, N.C., has been selected to receive \$35 million to build more than 560 miles of new distribution lines and improve 70 miles of existing lines serving approximately 7,400 consumers in a four-county area. The Jackson Electric Membership Corp. in Jefferson, Ga., has been selected to receive \$166 million to provide 2,100 miles of new distribution lines and make improvements to existing lines in 10 counties, providing upgraded service to more than 30,000 consumers throughout the Northeast part of the state. In New Mexico, the Otero County Electric Cooperative has been selected to receive almost \$23 million to build more than 280 miles of distribution lines and make other system improvements benefiting more than 2,100 consumers in four counties.

Since 2001, USDA Rural Development has awarded approximately \$28 billion in electric loans to utilities across the nation.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

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Funding for individual recipients is contingent upon meeting the conditions of the loan agreement. Loans will be made to the following utilities:

Borrower	State	Loan Amount
Jackson Electric Membership Corp.	GA	\$166,204,000
Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative.	IA	\$4,000,000
Cumberland Valley Electric	KY, IN	\$15,840,000
Federated Rural Electric Association.	MN, IA	\$3,950,000
Springer Electric Cooperative	NM	\$6,717,000
Otero County Electric Cooperative	NM	\$22,847,000
Lumbee River Electric Membership Corp.	NC	\$35,000,000
Adams Rural Electric Cooperative	OH	\$5,646,000
Prince George Electric Cooperative	VA	\$6,387,000

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$90 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.7 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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