

# Tonopah Public Utilities – Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection Lines Tonopah Nevada

**Outline Of Need:** Tonopah Public Utilities (TPU) wastewater collection and treatment systems needed major rehabilitation and replacement as they were in violation of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection regulations.

**How Rural Development Helped:** USDA Rural Development approved a loan of \$600,000 and a grant of \$1,400,000, and in partnership with US Army Corps of Engineers grant of \$1,596,532, a Community Development Block Grant of \$250,000, and the owner's contribution of \$100,000, all of the necessary funding for this project was committed.

**The Results:** Replacement of collection lines throughout the community was a key component of this project. The system was initially installed in the early 1900's when Tonopah was a thriving mining community. Collection lines were installed in a rather haphazard method and were undersized, of poor quality, and installed under houses or running through homeowner's property. By properly sizing the collection system and relocating lines to easements and rights-of-way, this eliminated blockages and made access to and future maintenance of the collection system easier for the utility company.

Tonopah Public Utilities wastewater treatment system was in violation of NDEP regulations and was ordered to make improvements to the treatment system. The existing treatment facilities were replaced with an anaerobic pretreatment pond, three aerated facultative ponds, and the control structures. Replacing the wastewater treatment facilities brought the system into compliance with state regulations and the Clean Water Act and provided the community with a safe, modern wastewater treatment system. Since construction of the new collection lines and treatment facilities has been completed, the system is operating much more efficiently and at a reduced cost to the residents – fewer repairs and blockages and less overtime expense to the system.

