



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
101 South Main Street, Suite 102, Temple, TX 76501

Phone: (254) 742-9700, Ext 4 • Fax: (254) 742-9709 • TDD: (254) 742-9712 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx>

Date: August 26, 2004

Contact Name: Scooter Brockette

Telephone Number: 254-742-9700, ext. 4

Email: Scooter.Brockette@tx.usda.gov

TX. 286.04

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR BARTLETT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

BARTLETT, Texas, August 26, 2004 - USDA Rural Development State Director, Bryan Daniel, announced today that the Bartlett Electric Cooperative, Inc., received a \$6,843,000 Rural Electric Loan. Bartlett Electric Cooperative is among the latest recipients of \$250 million in loans from USDA Rural Development's utilities program.

"Upgraded or expanded electric infrastructure is important for rural communities to ensure economic opportunities for their residents," said Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman. "These funds further demonstrate this Administration's dedication in supporting local job-creating business opportunities."

To highlight the awarding of this loan to Bartlett Electric Cooperative, Inc., Acting Under Secretary Gil Gonzalez, presented a ceremonial check and offer his congratulations to the board members.

"We are pleased with the opportunities USDA Rural Development funding provides in assisting communities," said Daniel. "USDA Rural Development is committed to helping enhance the lives of all rural Texans."



From left: Under Secretary Gil Gonzales, Ed Clemmons, Texas State Director, Bryan Daniel



From left: Under Secretary Gil Gonzalez and Texas State Director, Bryan Daniel



Under Secretary Gil Gonzalez

Through USDA Rural Development's utilities program, loans are made available to finance the construction or replacement of electric transmission and generation facilities in rural areas. This program provides reliable, affordable electricity to the nation's rural communities. Funding of selected applicants will be contingent upon meeting the conditions of the loan agreements.

In fiscal year 2003, the Bush Administration invested over \$6.3 billion in grants, loans and loan guarantees to support the development and/or improvements to rural electric, telephone and water/wastewater infrastructure that helped create or save an estimated 150,000 jobs. The funds announced today will serve 1,491 new customers, build 124 miles of new distribution lines and upgrade existing facilities.

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 and includes Business Programs, Housing Programs, and Community Programs. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation's rural residents.

For more information on USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, check our web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>

Committed to the future of rural communities.

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).