



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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VENEMAN ANNOUNCES NEARLY \$80 MILLION TO IMPROVE RURAL COMMUNITY WATER/WASTE SYSTEMS

Funding to Benefit 38 Communities in 25 States

TEMPLE, TEXAS, September 15, 2004— Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today announced the approval of nearly \$80 million in loan and grant funds to assist 38 rural communities in 25 states improve their water/wastewater infrastructure. The funds will be used by rural communities to provide clean, safe drinking water and sanitary wastewater disposal. In Texas, the Austin County Water Supply Corporation received a \$1,267,000 loan and Glenwood Water Supply Corporation received a \$367,330 loan.

“The Bush Administration understands that for a community to improve it’s economic opportunity and quality of life, basic community infrastructure is essential,” said Veneman. “These funds will help improve the health and safety of America’s rural communities.”

Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, said “Rural Texans will benefit from the funding provided to the Austin County Water Supply Corporation and the Glenwood Water Supply Corporation. We at USDA Rural Development are committed to helping communities to bring fresh, clean drinking water to their residents.”

Veneman said that since the beginning of the Bush Administration, USDA Rural Development has funded \$6.3 billion in loans and grants to assist communities in the construction or improvement of over 4,000 water or wastewater systems, benefiting more than 2.7 million people living in rural areas.

Funding for the 38 projects is comprised of \$60.5 million in loans and \$19.3 million in grants and will be contingent upon meeting the conditions of the loan and grant agreements. A complete list of the selected loan and grant recipients and projects can be found at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/newsroom/news.htm>

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development and critical community and technology infrastructure. Additional information about rural programs is available at local USDA Rural Development offices or on the Web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

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