



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR ONALASKA WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

ONALASKA, TEXAS, December 20, 2005-- Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, today announced that Onalaska Water Supply Corporation has been selected to receive \$2,570,000 through the agency's Community Program's Water and Waste Disposal Direct Loan Program. The funds will be used to make improvements to the existing water system originally constructed in 1968. The service currently provides water for 1,724 customers in southwest Polk County.

"USDA Rural Development is delighted to assist Onalaska Water Supply Corporation in providing safe and dependable drinking water for their residents," said Daniel.

In Fiscal Year 2005, \$48.9 million of Water and Waste Disposal Loan assistance was distributed throughout rural Texas. USDA Rural Development's Water and Waste Disposal Program is designed to bring fresh, clean drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound sewage facilities to rural America's 53 million residents. Loans and grants are available to rural communities with fewer than 10,000 residents. Public bodies, corporations operating on a non-profit basis, and Indian tribes, that are unable to obtain credit from other sources at reasonable rates and terms, are eligible for assistance.

USDA Rural works to ensure that rural citizens can participate fully in the global marketplace, by providing programs that assist rural Americans in building strong economies and to improve their quality of life. For more information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Lufkin Local Office at (936) 634-9900, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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