



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR McLENNAN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

TEMPLE, TEXAS, May 15, 2006 — Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today McLennan County Electric Cooperative, Inc. has been selected to receive a \$8,600,000 Rural Electric Loan. Funds will be used to build 131 miles of distribution lines and make other system improvements to provide service to 2,151 new consumers in Bosque, McLennan, Bell, Coryell, Fall, and Hamilton Counties.

“Upgraded or expanded electric infrastructure is important for rural communities to ensure economic opportunities for their residents,” said Daniel. “These funds further demonstrate USDA Rural Development’s dedication in supporting local job-creating business opportunities.”

Through the USDA Rural Development 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.

The USDA Rural Development mission is to deliver programs in a way that will increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting the web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx>.

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