



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS WEATHER RADIO TRANSMITTER GRANT

REEVES COUNTY, TEXAS, January 9, 2006– Thousands of people are affected by hazards, disasters or emergencies each year. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) operates an all hazard early warning system that broadcasts National Weather Service warnings to alert people in their coverage area of approaching dangerous weather and other emergencies. Unfortunately, some rural areas do not have NOAA Weather Radio coverage.

USDA Rural Development and NOAA have teamed up to bring an early warning system that will provide NOAA weather radio coverage to Reeves County, Texas. USDA Rural Development today announced \$80,000 in grant funding toward the installation of a 1000 watt dual transmitter, generator, and building. The grant is supplemented by \$58,000 of in kind contributions in the form of tower space from Reeves County Sheriff Department and electrical power provided by the Reeves County Emergency Management.

“It is important that rural communities, such as those in Reeves County, have the necessary tools and information available to protect lives and property against hazards and to address disasters or emergencies that threaten public safety,” said Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director.

USDA Rural Development strives to see that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the State Office at (254) 742-9700, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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