



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

200 Fourth Street SW • Federal Building, Room 210 • Huron, SD 57350

Phone: (605) 352-1100 or 1-800-670-6553 • Fax: (605) 352-1146 • TDD: (605) 352-1147 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/sd>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tammi Schone - (605) 352-1102

BDM RURAL WATER, SISSETON WAHPETON SIOUX TRIBE AND USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

USDA Rural Development Funds in the Amount of \$1,456,000 Assist With Projects

(Agency Village, South Dakota – April 23, 2008) Curtis Anderson, Deputy Administrator for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Rural Utilities Programs, joined Rural Development South Dakota Area Director Bruce Jones and Specialist Janell Telin and staff, BDM Rural Water System, Inc., Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribal representatives, Natural Resources and Conservation District, and the Office of Environmental Protection to celebrate Earth Day with the announcement of federal funding for water and environmental projects totaling \$1,456,000.

“The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970. It was held to bring to the forefront environmental issues,” said Anderson. “Thirty-eight years later, we are still celebrating Earth Day. The proposed projects of the BDM Rural Water System and the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe support positive environmental efforts for safe, sanitary water and sewer systems to the users of Sisseton and surrounding areas.”

BDM Rural Water System, Inc. will construct additional water storage reservoirs within the six existing reservoirs of the water system. The additional water storage will help meet increased water demand placed on the system by the increased number of users. This project will increase water storage by 1,200,000 gallons, for a total of 1,800,000 gallons at the six water storage sites. This will enable the water system to meet increased demand and peak flows for several years into the future. Today, BDM Rural Water System, Inc. was awarded a USDA Rural Development water and waste disposal direct loan in the amount of \$370,000 and a Native American Set-Aside grant of \$636,000. The federal funds will be leveraged with Environmental Protection Agency funds in the amount of \$894,100 for a total project cost of \$1,900,100.

The Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe plans to construct water distribution lines, sanitary sewer collection lines, rehabilitate the existing sewage lagoon, and build a new lagoon to accommodate the 30 existing housing units in the area and for future users at the Long Hollow project site. The Long Hollow project is a housing development subdivision where the construction of 44 new multi-family housing and single family housing units will be built along with the installation of infrastructure including drinking water and sanitary sewer systems and streets. Today, the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe today was awarded a USDA Rural Development water and waste disposal grant in the amount of \$450,000 from Native American Set-Aside funds. The Sisseton Wahpeton Housing Authority is developing a \$1,300,000 eleven-unit multi family housing complex at the Long Hollow site. USDA Rural Development is providing a Section 515 Loan in the amount of \$1,000,000 with rental assistance for very low and low income families.

“These projects will build and improve rural water and sewage systems and the community of Sisseton and surrounding areas will benefit through clean, safe drinking water and sanitary sewer systems,” said Rural Development State Director Mike Jaspers. “USDA Rural Development is proud to be a partner in environmental and health improvement projects.”

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, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800)795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

- Continued -

In South Dakota, Rural Development provides valuable loan and grant programs, loan guarantees and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Rural Development invested more than \$259 million in fiscal year 2007 and \$1.9 billion over the past 10 years in South Dakota's economy.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$76.8 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.5 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

- USDA -