



NEWS RELEASE

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RURAL WATER SYSTEM TO BE BUILT
USDA Rural Development Funds of \$1,330,000 Assist
Viewfield Rural Water Association, Inc. With Construction

(New Underwood, South Dakota – April 21, 2008) The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development staff participated in a ceremony for the Viewfield Rural Water Association Inc. where South Dakota Area Director Tim Potts and Specialist Nancy Clarke presented a rural utilities direct water loan in the amount of \$1,330,000 for construction of a rural water system.

“This rural water system project will provide a safe and sanitary water system to the 52 users of the Viewfield community and surrounding areas. I commend all those involved for their efforts in providing an abundant, safe water supply for the residents of this area,” said Rural Development State Director Mike Jaspers. “USDA Rural Development is committed to providing investment financing and an improved quality of life for local residents.”

Viewfield Rural Water Association is a newly formed association in southern Meade County, north of New Underwood. The residents of the Viewfield area have been experiencing water deficiency issues, including but not limited to water shortage and safe drinking water. The overall project will consist of drilling two deep-aquifer wells, 275,000 gallon storage tank, laying water lines, installation of water taps, meter pits, and meters. This project is being designed and constructed to meet the existing needs of users and provide for community development and sustainability to the Viewfield area. The federal funding will be leveraged with an applicant contribution of \$342,500, a SD- DENR Consolidated Community Grant in the amount of \$350,000, and \$720,000 from the USDA-NRCS EQIP cost-share program for conservation practices and livestock usage, for a total project cost of \$2,692,000. In addition, the Bureau of Reclamation will contract for drilling the second deep-aquifer well.

“The Viewfield area has been in a continued drought since 2000, and the moisture situation for 2008 is uncertain,” said Larry Gossard, President of Viewfield Rural Water Association Inc. He continued, “Planning of the rural water system began in September 2006, and construction will begin in earnest this month and completion is expected by September. We want to thank the Association members for their participation and support of the project, our engineering consultants from Renner & Associates, and the four funding agencies mentioned above.”

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>.

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