



For Immediate Release

Rural Infrastructure Authority approves grants for enhancing water, sewer services

COLUMBIA, S.C. – May 21, 2013 – As the current fiscal year comes to a close, the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) has recently awarded \$5.7 million in grants for 17 water and sewer projects in 15 counties across the state. The RIA funding leverages an additional \$8 million in investments in rural infrastructure improvements.

“Basic infrastructure is a key component not only of economic development, but also of quality of life. These grants will help communities provide better water and sewer service for current residents as well as become more attractive to new residents and businesses,” said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt, who also serves as chairman of the RIA’s Board of Directors.

In total, the funding awarded by RIA since January comes to more than \$9.6 million, which has supported 31 water and sewer infrastructure projects throughout South Carolina. As a result of this latest round of grant awards, many rural communities will be able to bring their water and sewer systems up to environmental quality standards established by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. In addition, these projects will improve the capacity of existing systems to serve customers, improve the quality of life and prepare for economic development. Fifty-nine percent of the projects are water system improvements or extensions; the remaining 41 percent are wastewater projects.

More specifically, some of these projects include extension of water lines to areas experiencing dry or failing wells that are subject to bacteria and contamination, upgrades to elevated storage tanks and improvement of facilities impacted by flooding conditions. Funding for the Lake Marion Regional Water Agency will ensure that over \$2.75 million in federal funds are secured and provide the necessary capacity to support regional economic development efforts.

The grants were awarded through a competitive process that focused primarily on environmental quality standards and public health concerns. Applications were reviewed using several criteria including: severity of the problem, expected benefits, feasibility of the project, level of effort and readiness to begin construction.

A full list of grant recipients is listed below.

The purpose of the RIA is to support the construction and improvement of rural infrastructure through competitive grants and other financial assistance. The RIA is governed by a board of directors, and the S.C. Secretary of Commerce serves as the chairman.

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South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority List of Funded Projects (May 2013)

City of Bennettsville	Residential Water Lines	\$200,000
Town of Blackville	Waste Water Treatment Plant Improvements	\$350,000

Chester Sewer District	Pump Station Upgrade	\$350,000
Town of Chesterfield	Elevated Water Tank Renovations	\$315,000
City of Clinton	Water Line Upgrade	\$150,000
City of Denmark	Water Main Replacements	\$350,000
Town of Estill	Pump Station Upgrade	\$350,000
Town of Greeleyville	Water Line Extension	\$320,650
Greenwood Metropolitan District	Sewer Line Improvement	\$500,000
Town of Hollywood	Water Line Extension	\$29,000
Lake Marion Regional Water Agency	Water Line Extension	\$1,555,600
City of Lancaster	Sewer System Upgrade	\$350,000
Town of Norway	Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrades	\$350,000
City of Sumter	Water System Improvements	\$90,100
Sumter County	Water Line Extension	\$227,194
Town of Ulmer	Elevated Water Tank Renovations	\$150,000
Williamsburg County	Waste Water Treatment Plant Improvements	\$150,000