



For Immediate Release

Rural Infrastructure Authority awards \$12 million in grants

COLUMBIA, S.C. – May 22, 2014 – The South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) has awarded nearly \$12 million in grants this fiscal year for 42 water and sewer projects in 32 counties across the state. This RIA funding leverages an additional \$65 million in investments in rural infrastructure improvements.

“The RIA helps rural communities succeed by investing in needed infrastructure improvements that improve quality of life for residents while supporting new and existing businesses,” said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt, who also serves as chairman of the RIA’s Board of Directors. “These investments will help the state continue to ‘set the table’ for economic development in our rural communities.”

The projects awarded funding will address community water and sewer improvements and economic infrastructure needs. Most of the funding will be used to upgrade or improve aging facilities to ensure public health and environmental compliance. The remaining grants will increase the infrastructure capacity to support existing businesses and new economic opportunities. These projects will impact 7,500 customers and 130 businesses.

A vast majority of the projects will focus on upgrading existing infrastructure components such as water tanks, pump stations and treatment facilities. Other projects include extension of new water or sewer lines to address problems with shallow wells, malfunctioning septic tanks or areas not suitable for onsite disposal systems. Funds will also be used to lay the infrastructure foundation for publicly-owned industrial properties that will attract new jobs and investment.

Three projects were approved funding by the RIA Board in November and 39 projects were approved in May. Grants are awarded through a competitive process that identifies priority needs for improved public health, environmental protection, community sustainability and economic development.

Applicants are required to match the RIA funding requests. Applications are selected by the RIA Board based on criteria including: severity of the problem, expected benefits and feasibility of the project.

A full list of grant recipients for fiscal year 2014 is 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 seven member board of directors, and the SC Secretary of Commerce serves as the chairman.

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South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority List of Funded Projects in FY2014

Barnwell, City of	Water Line Upgrade	\$313,000
Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority	Water Line Upgrade	\$350,000
Bethune, Town of	Elevated Water Tank Refurbishment	\$55,350
Bishopville, City of	Gravity Sewer Line Replacement	\$350,000
Blacksburg, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	\$350,000
Calhoun County	Elevated Water Tank Construction	\$282,000
Calhoun Falls, Town of	Elevated Water Tank Refurbishment	\$306,000
Cherokee County	Water Line Upgrade	\$350,000
Chester County	Economic Infrastructure	\$2,000,000
Clarendon County	Water Line Extension: Phase 1C	\$280,000
Clio, Town of	Water System Improvements	\$208,150
Darlington, City of	Water Line Upgrade	\$239,480
Dillon, City of	Pump Station Upgrade	\$350,000
Donalds-Due West Water & Sewer Authority	Water Line Upgrade	\$89,400
Dorchester County	Pump Station Upgrade	\$51,180
Due West, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	\$271,000
Edgefield County Water & Sewer Authority	Regional Sewer Line Upgrade	\$350,000
Ehrhardt, Town of	Sewer System Extension	\$350,000
Fairfield County	Sewer Line Extension	\$350,000
Greenwood Commissioners of Public Works	Water Line Upgrade	\$350,000
Hampton County	Economic Water and Sewer Infrastructure	\$349,865
Heath Springs, Town of	Water Line Upgrade	\$160,000
Jefferson, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	\$328,805
Kingstree, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	\$50,000
Lancaster County Water and Sewer District	Sewer System Improvements	\$349,990

Laurens County	Water and Sewer Line Extension	\$350,000
Loris, City of	Pump Station Upgrade	\$100,000
Lowcountry Regional Water System	Emergency Well Replacement	\$9,444
Marion County	Economic Water and Sewer Infrastructure	\$350,000
Marlboro County	Water Line Extension	\$61,650
McCormick County	Sewer Pump Replacements	\$126,000
Newberry, City of	Water Treatment Plant Upgrades	\$350,000
Pageland, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	\$350,000
Richland County	Sewer System Extension	\$350,000
Ridgeway, Town of	Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrades	\$220,000
Scranton, Town of	Water Line Extension	\$60,000
Union County	Water Line Upgrade	\$63,500
Wagener, Town of	Elevated Water Tank Refurbishment	\$98,500
Ware Shoals, Town of	Water Line Upgrade	\$241,500
Williamston, Town of	Gravity Sewer Line Replacement – Phase II	\$25,875
Winnsboro, Town of	Pump Station Upgrade	\$241,000
York, City of	Water Line Upgrade	\$272,500