



For Immediate Release

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Rural Infrastructure Authority awards nearly \$15 million in grants for FY16

COLUMBIA, S.C. – May 4, 2016 – Recognizing that rural South Carolina needs to have the infrastructure necessary to support community development and growth, the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) recently awarded \$4.9 million in grants for water, sewer and drainage projects across the state. This brings the total new project awards for the year to \$14.5 million in 20 counties.

This RIA funding leverages an additional \$66 million in investments for rural infrastructure improvements, ensuring that the distressed and least developed areas of our state remain competitive for economic development and community sustainability.

“These grant awards allow the RIA to assist communities with resources that are essential to economic vitality and sustainability,” said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt, who also serves as chairman of the RIA’s Board of Directors. “Connecting to basic necessities like water, waste water, drainage systems and other public facilities is critical to setting the table for economic development.”

The projects awarded funding will address community water, sewer and drainage improvements and economic infrastructure needs. Most of the funding will be used to upgrade or improve aging facilities to protect public health and ensure environmental compliance. The remaining grants will increase the infrastructure capacity to support existing businesses and new economic opportunities. These projects will impact more than 23,000 customers and serve 2,491 businesses.

Eight projects were approved funding by the RIA Board in November and 14 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. A full list of grant recipients for fiscal year 2016 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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SC Rural Infrastructure Authority FY2016 Grant Recipients

Andrews, Town of	Economic Water and Sewer Infrastructure	\$500,000
Berkeley County	Economic Water Infrastructure	\$3,000,000
Clinton, City of	Sewer System Improvements	\$234,900
Darlington, City of	Drainage System Upgrade	\$444,870
Edgefield County Water & Sewer Authority	Sewer System Improvements	\$250,000
Estill, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000
Florence, City of	Water Tank Construction	\$500,000
Georgetown, City of	Drainage System Upgrade	\$159,365
Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000
Jonesville, Town of	Water Line Upgrades	\$161,000
Lake Marion Regional Water Agency	Economic Water Infrastructure	\$3,000,000
Lancaster, City of	Sewer System Improvements	\$1,500,000
Lowcountry Regional Water System	Economic Water and Sewer Infrastructure	\$150,000
Ninety Six CPW	Water Line Upgrades	\$350,000
Pageland, Town of	Economic Sewer Infrastructure	\$443,850
Pendleton, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000
Saluda County Water and Sewer Authority	Water System Improvements	\$500,000
Santee, Town of	Pump Station Upgrade	\$417,195
Stuckey, Town of	Water Tank Construction	\$137,500
Walterboro, City of	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000
Winnsboro, Town of	Water System Improvements	\$500,000
Woodruff Roebuck Water District	Sewer System Improvements	\$288,750
TOTAL FUNDS AWARDED	22 projects	\$14,537,430