

RUS withdraws grant program for private water wells

The Rural Utilities Service, USDA, has withdrawn their final rule to establish a grants program to construct and improve rural private wells. As described in the Federal Register notice in mid-November, RUS withdrew the program based on adverse comments.

RUS had established The Household Water Well System (HWWS) Grant Program to assist individuals who own or will own household water well systems. Qualified private, non-profit organizations would receive HWWS grant funds to establish a lending program to provide low-interest loans to eligible individuals. As grant recipients, the non-profit organizations would set up a revolving loan fund to provide the loans to individuals to construct, refurbish, and service individually-owned household well systems.

RUS published a direct final rule on October 6, 2004, to issue regulations to establish the program authorized by section 306E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT). The direct final rule was to establish a lending program for the construction, refurbishing, and servicing of individually-owned household water well systems in rural areas that are or will be owned by the eligible individuals. In addition, the rule outlined the process by which applicants could apply for the program and how RUS would administer the grant program.

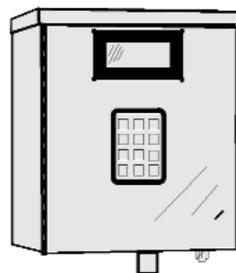
RUS published a companion proposed rule on the same day as the direct final rule. The proposed rule invited comment on the substance of the direct

final rule. The proposed rule stated that if RUS received adverse comment by November 5, 2004, the direct final rule would not take effect, and RUS would withdraw the direct final

rule before the November 22, 2004, effective date. RUS subsequently received adverse comments on the direct final rule. RUS plans to address those comments in a subsequent action.

Kansas communities received nearly \$15.4 million in loans and grants for water and waste disposal projects in fiscal year '04. The funding allocation for fiscal year '05 to Kansas is \$12.582 million in loans and \$5.363 million in grants.

USDA Rural Development - Kansas Water and Waste Disposal Direct Loans and Grants FY 2004			
Project	Type	Loan Amount	Grant Amount
City of Galesburg	Water	\$72,000	\$85,200
City of Caney	Water	\$323,000	\$58,000
City of Lyndon	Water	\$431,200	\$644,800
Public Wholesale 20	Water	\$300,000	\$900,000
Crawford Sewer District 3	Sewer	\$703,000	\$955,800
Crawford Sewer District 5	Sewer	\$231,300	\$359,700
Trego RWD 2	Water	\$1,272,800	\$979,200
City of Alma	Water	\$1,364,700	\$890,300
Pottawatomie RWD 2	Water	\$408,800	\$71,000
Public Wholesale 13	Water	\$2,931,700	\$2,122,745
City of Elwood	Sewer	\$210,500	\$0
City of Whitewater	Sewer	\$77,800	\$0
Total:		\$8,326,800	\$7,066,745



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