

Water, wastewater system funding gets big boost through Recovery Act funding

Many water and wastewater systems across America are or may soon be benefiting from additional funding provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The final legislation passed by Congress earlier this spring included the following:

- \$1.38 billion for USDA water and wastewater loans and grants;
- \$2.0 billion for Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan programs;
- \$4.0 billion for Clean Water Act Revolving Loan Programs.

This is the first time Congress has proposed the following three initiatives, which are critical to making the Recovery bill most effective and were all supported by the National Rural Water Association (NRWA):

- Funding all the USDA's water and sanitation \$1.5 billion list of projects in the agency's backlog;
- Directing 50 percent of the EPA's \$6 billion in wastewater project funding to subsidies for communities that meet affordability criteria (considered disadvantaged);
- Directing 50 percent of the EPA's \$2 billion in drinking water project funding to subsidies for disadvantaged communities.

What does this mean for Kansas? It means that approximately \$19 million in additional funding will be granted by U.S. EPA for the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund and approximately \$35 million in additional funding for the Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund (Wastewater). For USDA Rural Development, it means that sufficient funding will be available for the current backlog of projects totaling some \$84 million. However, qualifying for the funding requires that the projects meet traditional benchmarks for rates and other user fees and other program criteria of both agencies.

USDA Rural Development names first projects funded with Recovery Act funds

Kansas USDA Rural Development Acting State Director Darla J. Buckman recently announced that two Kansas water projects totaling nearly \$4.87 million have been selected by USDA Rural Development to be funded by federal appropriations, provided through ARRA. Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the terms of the loan or grant agreements.

The USDA press release noted that the city of Atwood may receive a \$2,199,000 grant and \$867,000 loan to purchase water rights to develop two new wells, construct 17 miles of water line, and create or save 51 jobs. The project will help complete the fourth and final phase of Atwood's water system improvements and serve the community's 1300 residents. The city has been challenged to secure a new water supply source due to elevated levels of arsenic, iron and manganese in the existing wells. USDA funds will be complemented with an applicant contribution of \$287,000.

Rural Water District 1, Crawford County, may receive a \$409,000 grant and \$1,395,000 loan to install 17 miles of water lines and associated valves to replace aging pipe and upgrade line sizes, and create or save 30 jobs. This will reduce water loss and provide better service to its growing customer base. An estimated 580 rural residents will be benefited.

EARTH DAY sees investment of \$4.44 million in Burlington wastewater project

To mark Earth Day in Kansas, USDA Rural Development Business and Community Programs Director Gary Smith presented the city of Burlington with a Certificate of Recognition for its efforts to protect the environment, with the planned city of Burlington, Phase II Sewer project. Funding for the city's project, a \$3,360,000 loan and a \$1,080,000 grant, provided through the Agency's Water & Waste Disposal Program, will benefit approximately 2,790 users.

"USDA Rural Development's Water & Waste Disposal Program is one of the most important community and economic development efforts this Agency undertakes. These funds, combined with the Agency's helpful technical assistance which supports local leadership, helps make these critically needed services a reality. This important sewage collection program promotes the economic growth of the whole area, supports new jobs for the region and enhances the quality of life for the community's residents," commented Acting State Director Darla Buckman.

The USDA press release noted that in the past several years, the city of Burlington has experienced many challenges associated with an aging sanitary sewer infrastructure including increased maintenance issues, sewer main breaks, and increased inflow and infiltration. It is estimated that the pipe in parts of the town are well over 100 years old. Not only will the completion of this large scale rehabilitation project directly benefit the city in terms of

maintenance frequency and cost but the indirect benefits will be numerous. The city will save in energy costs from decreased pump use, maintenance and replacement costs for pumps will be reduced, and the environment in and around Burlington will benefit from a significant reduction in pollution from wet weather overflow events.

USDA Rural Development utilized Farm Bill funding in 2008 to fund the first portion with a loan of \$5,800,000 and grant of \$1,279,700 for line rehabilitation south of Rock Creek. This project covers lines north of Rock Creek.

USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental Program provides loans and grants to ensure that the necessary investments are made in water and wastewater infrastructure to deliver safe drinking water and protect the environment in rural areas. For additional information regarding USDA Rural Development and its programs, log onto the Agency's website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks or call the USDA Rural Development state office at 785/271-2700.

Public Wholesale District 12; Pottawatomie RWD 4 funded

USDA Rural Development Acting State Director Darla J. Buckman recently announced that an additional two Kansas water projects totaling more than \$5.4 million have been selected by the agency to be funded by federal appropriations provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The projects are for Public Wholesale Water Supply District No. 12 (PWWSD 12, also featured in another article in this issue of The Lifeline), and Rural Water District No. 4, Pottawatomie County.

The agency's news release of June 10, 2009 stated that PWWSD 12 will receive a \$2,215,000 loan and a \$2,085,000 grant to replace eight miles of distribution line between the City of Waverly and the District's connection to Rural Water District 4 in Anderson County. PWWSD 12 will also construct a new 1-million gallon storage tank, expand and improve a water treatment plant to add production capability and ensure compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act regulations and construct a second raw water intake structure to provide additional capacity. Agency funding will be leveraged with an applicant contribution of \$500,000.

These projects will provide a sufficient quantity and safe drinking water to 7 rural towns and 3 Rural Water Districts in Kansas, with 72 jobs created or saved.

Rural Water District 4, Pottawatomie County, will receive a \$645,000 loan and \$487,000 grant to install six miles of water line, construct a 50,000 gallon ground water storage tank, install a pre-filter system within the District's water treatment plant in order to remove iron and manganese bacteria before the water enters the District's existing reverse osmosis treatment system. Also, 20 customer meters will be replaced. RWD 4 benefits approximately 490 rural connections and three wholesale customers. These projects will create or save 19 jobs.

The following table shows the number of projects and the funding backlog by state.

State	BL Projects	\$ Amount
New York	101	203,755,301
Iowa	100	330,217,894
Minnesota	93	228,359,352
Texas	93	271,393,541
California	78	224,413,074
Pennsylvania	73	315,275,832
West Virginia	66	183,510,311
Mississippi	60	113,264,464
Arkansas	58	226,228,060
Michigan	54	209,459,752
Illinois	53	73,540,016
Tennessee	43	54,030,824
South Dakota	39	120,791,524
Maine	38	39,492,780
Kentucky	37	62,862,832
Nebraska	37	52,123,499
Missouri	35	72,407,802
North Carolina	35	178,316,348
Louisiana	31	80,017,893
Alaska	30	11,163,581
Virginia	30	110,536,712
Wisconsin	30	91,285,829
Kansas	29	84,564,420
Ohio	28	65,884,526
Florida	26	142,113,890
Massachusetts	26	64,180,378
Montana	25	30,986,631
Oklahoma	25	60,630,339
Indiana	23	114,201,190
South Carolina	23	82,721,531
Idaho	22	28,345,709
Maryland	20	44,144,583
Washington	19	37,524,200
North Dakota	18	48,867,371
Arizona	17	32,401,505
Oregon	17	41,818,773
Vermont	17	39,517,728
Georgia	15	82,902,870
New Jersey	14	40,925,050
Alabama	13	34,312,372
Nevada	13	21,428,004
Colorado	11	23,215,365
New Mexico	8	17,468,864
Connecticut	7	30,258,000
New Hampshire	7	11,832,495
Utah	5	10,217,834
Hawaii/Guam	4	7,480,605
Delaware	2	20,675,000
Puerto Rico	2	14,900,500
Rhode Island	1	681,000
Wyoming	0	0
Total	1651	4,486,647,954

KDHE announces stimulus funding to improve water supply systems

Some borrowers of the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund (SRF) will benefit from the recently announced American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). More commonly referred to as the “stimulus funding”, the SRF loan program is the recipient of \$19.5 million in ARRA funding. The funding for the SRF originates with capitalization grants from U.S. EPA. The loan program is administered by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). Originally 39 projects were selected for funding.

“We’re pleased to be able to help get our economy back on track by creating jobs and bringing revenue to communities across Kansas,” said Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary of KDHE in a recent news release. “The dollars made available through the American Recovery Act have enabled us to fund more projects than we could on our own, which means that more Kansans will see infrastructure improvements in their communities.

KDHE plans to supplement the \$19.5 million in ARRA funding with other funds from the Loan Fund to finance 39 projects costing just over \$53 million. ARRA requires that a percentage of the funding be awarded with principal forgiveness. Each of the 39 selected projects includes some portion of funding on which the principal will be forgiven.

By supplementing the ARRA funding, KDHE is extending the benefits of principal forgiveness to more Kansas communities. The remainder of each project’s funding is being provided as a low-interest loan.

At least 20 percent of the funds provided under ARRA are to be used for green infrastructure, water and energy efficiency improvements and other environmentally innovative projects. Some of those components found in the 39 selected projects include the reduction of excessive water loss, increases in energy efficiency, generation of clean or renewable energy for use at the facilities or in the systems, and the installation of water meters capable of automated reading.

Cities and rural water districts across Kansas submitted 143 project proposals for funding consideration. Proposals were reviewed by KDHE staff who made the selections based on readiness to proceed and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund project priority ranking system.

The projects selected to receive funding are:

City of Arkansas City – Estimated cost: \$1.65 million
Two projects were selected; one will install new transmission mains to serve a hospital in the community and the second will allow redundancy for better use of existing storage.

City of Atchison – Estimated cost: \$3.6 million
Two projects were selected; one will replace aging and deteriorated waterlines in the city and the second will replace a pump station which will reduce excessive water loss and increase energy efficiency.



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City of Bentley – Estimated cost: \$480,000
Bentley's present water supply source needs to be discontinued due to water quality concerns. This project will construct a water line from the distribution system to different wells which will have water quality that meets primary drinking water standards.

City of Cherryvale – Estimated cost: \$812,000
This project will replace aging and deteriorating waterlines and install automated meter reading equipment to reduce water loss and improve system pressures.

City of Coffeyville – Estimated Cost: \$720,000
Three projects were selected; one will install mixers in existing storage reservoirs to maintain adequate chlorine residual, the second project will replace valves in the water treatment plant yard piping for efficient operation, and the third project will replace clarifier equipment in the water treatment plant that has reached its useful life. Two of the three projects all include security improvements to the system.

City of Conway Springs – Estimated cost: \$3.2 million
The city drinking water supply exceeds the drinking water standard for nitrates. This project will address that problem by constructing a water treatment plant to improve water quality and meet primary drinking water standards.

Douglas County RWD 2 – Estimated cost \$1.2 million
This project will replace waterlines to increase distribution system pressures to meet KDHE requirements.

City of El Dorado – Estimated cost: \$200,000
This project will insert a hydroelectric generator into the City's raw water pipeline to generate approximately 100 kilowatts of clean energy for use at the water treatment plant.

City of Emporia – Est. project cost: \$1.8 million
This project will rehabilitate and expand the existing water treatment plant to meet system demands.

City of Galena – Estimated cost: \$165,000
Two projects were selected; the first will replace aging and deteriorating waterlines to reduce water loss and the second will provide service to a medical facility under construction.

City of Garnett – Estimated cost: \$1.1 million
This project will install a raw waterline from Cedar Valley Reservoir to the existing water treatment plant. Water quality is expected to improve using this source and will also allow the city to provide water to surrounding communities.

City of Goodland – Estimated cost: \$4.5 million
The city drinking water supply exceeds the drinking water standard for nitrates. This project will address that problem by constructing pipeline to blend water supply wells which will improve water quality and meet primary drinking water standards.

City of Independence – Estimated cost \$2.5 million
This project will replace an existing elevated water tower that has reached its useful life. The new water tower will have increased storage capacity.

Jefferson RWD 13 – Estimated cost: \$2.4 million
This project will replace waterlines to increase distribution system pressures to meet KDHE requirements, build new storage capacity to meet system demand, and improve the water treatment plant.

City of Junction City – Estimated cost: \$800,000
This project will replace an existing well that has reached the end of its useful life.

City of Kirwin – Estimated cost: \$304,000
The city drinking water supply exceeds the drinking water standard for nitrates. This project will address that problem by installing treatment units at the individual households to improve water quality and meet primary drinking water standards.

City of Lacrosse – Estimated cost: \$420,000
This project will replace aging and deteriorated water lines to reduce water loss and maintenance costs.

City of Minneapolis – Estimated cost: \$325,000
This project will construct a water line from an existing well to the city's new water treatment plant. This will improve source water efficiency by reducing well drawdown and improve water quality to meet secondary drinking water standards.



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Nemaha RWD 3 – Estimated cost: \$3.7 million
This project will add new wells and transmission lines to the existing distribution system which will increase pressures and meet KDHE requirements.

City of Olathe – Estimated cost: \$200,000
This project will make improvements to the water treatment plant filter under drains and replace filter media.

Osage RWD 5 – Estimated cost: \$1 million
This project will construct new water distribution mains to increase pressure and meet KDHE requirements.

City of Otis – Estimated cost: \$1.2 million
This project will replace 21,500 feet of deteriorating waterline to reduce water loss, install a telemetry system for efficient operation of wells and pump station, install an emergency power generator, and construct wind turbines to supply renewable energy to the system.

City of Ottawa – Estimated cost: \$1.8 million
This project will construct a new clearwell at the existing water treatment plant to improve water quality, storage capabilities and operation practices.

City of Pittsburg – Estimated cost: \$8.7 million
This project will rehabilitate and expand the existing water treatment plant to improve treatment processes and install a geothermal heat pump system to reduce utility costs.

City of Russell – Estimated cost: \$300,000
This project will replace 2,900 feet of deteriorating waterline to improve water flow and reduce water loss.

City of Seneca – Estimated Cost: \$509,000
This project will install looped distribution piping to improve circulation, pressure and water quality.

City of Victoria – Estimated: \$750,000
This project will rehabilitate an existing pump station, install a standby generator, update telemetry system and replace deteriorated waterlines. This will result in reduced water loss and efficient pumping.

City of Yates Center – Estimated project cost: \$280,000
This project will rehabilitate the existing water treatment plant to improve water quality and operational efficiency.

Wastewater projects

KDHE also received \$35 million in Recovery Act funding to improve wastewater infrastructure across the state. The funds went to Kansas' Clean Water State Revolving Fund program which provides low-interest loans for water quality protection projects for wastewater treatment, non-point source pollution control and watershed and estuary management.

Similar to the water loan fund, at least 20 percent of the funds provided under the Recovery Act are to be used for green infrastructure, water and energy efficiency improvements and other environmentally innovative projects. According to a KDHE press release, each of the selected wastewater projects has a green component to it. Some of those components include the reduction of electricity needs, the use of solar-powered energy and the completion of system-wide energy audits.

KDHE plans to supplement the \$35 million in Recovery Act resources with other monies from its Clean Water State Revolving Fund to fund projects costing just over \$36 million. As of June 11, 2009, KDHE has selected 12 projects estimated at just over \$29 million. Each of the 12 selected projects includes some portion of funding on which the principal will be forgiven. The remainder of each project's funding is being provided as a low-interest loan. For the additional \$7 million in funding that is available, KDHE is soliciting additional innovative green project proposals that will provide stormwater water quality enhancements and treatment of non-point sources of pollution. About 70 project proposals for funding were submitted by wastewater utilities. The projects selected to receive funding are:

City of Bucklin – Estimated cost: \$766,000
This project will rehabilitate the existing wastewater treatment lagoon, and also provide solar powered mixers to enhance treatment and produce a better quality discharge.

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City of Colby – Estimated cost: \$70,500

This project will construct a new pumping station and pipeline to deliver treated wastewater effluent for irrigation at the municipal softball and baseball fields. This will reduce the use of treated potable water in these irrigation efforts.

City of Hutchinson – Estimated cost: \$4.7 million

This project will provide equipment replacement, upgrade improvements, and various rehabilitation to the waste sludge anaerobic digestion system. Benefits will include continued digester gas capture and reuse for heating, as well as waste sludge dewatering to reduce energy usage.

City of Jetmore – Estimated cost: \$1.6 million

This project will construct a new wastewater treatment lagoon to replace the existing mechanical wastewater treatment facility. Doing this will reduce energy usage and provide the potential for irrigation reuse of the treated effluent.

Johnson Co. Wastewater – Estimated cost: \$15.6 million

Two projects were selected; the first will construct sludge handling improvements to the Douglas L. Smith Indian Creek Middle Basin wastewater treatment facility. This will include a new storage basin for fats, oils and grease, expansion of the anaerobic digestion sludge treatment system and digester gas handling system, and new co-gen power production system to burn digester gas and produce hot water for heating and electricity for on-site usage. The second project will provide funding for a system-wide energy audit of the Johnson County Wastewater Utility.

City of Leoti – Estimated cost: \$123,000

This project will construct a new pumping station and pipeline to deliver treated wastewater effluent for irrigation at the municipal golf course. Doing this will reduce the use of treated potable water for irrigation purposes.

City of Lindsborg – Estimated cost: \$5.4 million

This project will rehabilitate and upgrade the existing wastewater treatment process to both improve effluent quality and reduce power use. This project will also provide irrigation reuse of effluent at the municipal golf course which will reduce the use of treated potable water.

City of Oberlin – Estimated cost: \$174,000

This project will provide several solar-powered mixers for the wastewater treatment lagoon. This will alleviate odor and treatment problems as well as eliminate the use of chemicals for odor control.

City of Pittsburg – Estimated cost: \$1.3 million

Two projects were selected; the first will provide funding for the purchase of equipment that will allow the city to investigate the physical condition of the wastewater collection system. This will enable to the city to locate defects which contribute to infiltration and inflow. The second project will upgrade the electrical system of an existing major sewage pumping station and reduce power use.

City of Topeka – Estimated cost: \$55,000

This project will provide funding for an energy audit of the Topeka-North Wastewater Treatment Facility.

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