



NEWS RELEASE

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AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES \$143 MILLION FOR RURAL WATER PROJECTS

Three Maine Recipients Selected to Receive \$6.5 Million

WASHINGTON, June 2, 2009 — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced the selection of nearly \$143 million in water and environmental projects that are being funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The projects will help provide safe drinking water and improve wastewater treatment systems for rural towns and communities in 21 states.

“These ARRA investments will provide reliable drinking water and improve infrastructure systems in many towns across rural America,” Vilsack said. “The 59 water and wastewater projects announced today support the Obama administration’s vision for a 21st century rural America.”

In Maine, three recipients have been selected to receive a total of \$6.5 million. Boothbay Region Water District has been selected to receive \$2.6 million to replace existing water mains that are deteriorating due to age, which will improve water quality and system dependability for the 12 communities served. The Town of Fort Kent has been selected to receive over \$3.1 million for upgrades to its water and waste systems, including the construction of a new pump station to be located out of the flood zone, and the replacement of 3,000 feet of cracked water main caused by flooding. The Town of Randolph has been selected to receive \$750,000 to replace its pump station, bring it in compliance with applicable codes, and provide it with emergency back-up power, creating a more reliable system for the 717 users.

USDA Rural Development Acting State Director Valarie C. Flanders said, “This funding represents an investment in upgrading Maine’s essential infrastructure, providing dependable water and wastewater systems and ensuring access to clean, safe drinking water for the residents in rural communities.”

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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. More information about USDA Rural Development can be found at www.rurdev.usda.gov/me. Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the terms of the loan or grant agreement.

President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 into law on February 17, 2009. It is designed to jumpstart the nation's economy, create or save millions of jobs and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The Act includes measures to modernize our nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

More information about USDA's Recovery Act efforts is available at www.usda.gov/recovery. More information about the Federal government's efforts on the Recovery Act is available at www.recovery.gov.

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