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For Immediate Release

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Washington D.C.- Congressman John P. Murtha, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, announced today that the Parks Township Municipal Authority has received a \$1 million grant through the Army Corps of Engineers for the Parks-Bethel Water System Extension Project.

The Parks Township Municipal Authority will provide public water supply service to approximately 240 residences in Parks and Bethel Townships through a project that will begin this year. The project includes the installation of approximately 13 miles of 8-inch water distribution lines, a 200,000-gallon water storage tank, and a water pumping station with a capacity of approximately 200 gallons per minute.

"The Parks-Bethel water system extension will provide a dependable source of safe drinking water to the families in our area who currently depend on wells, springs and cisterns for water," said Murtha. "Projects like these are vital components of healthy communities as well as key economic development tools."

The Parks-Bethel water system extension is estimated to cost approximately \$4.2 million. Grant and loan funds have been approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Community Development Block Grant funds from Armstrong County will assist low-income homeowners in payment of the required tap-in fee. The \$1 million grant from Congressman Murtha will allow the borrowing for the project to be reduced in the hope of holding the monthly water bills for the new customers to a lower level. The goal is to keep the monthly water bill as low as possible.

Public bids will be received for construction of the project later this summer. In addition public fire protection will be provided along the entire route of the project.