

February 10, 2006 Funding complete for wastewater project

For Immediate Release

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Johnstown, PA - U.S. Rep. John Murtha said today that North Belle Vernon's new wastewater collection system will be completed using a \$2.8 million loan provided by USDA Rural Development.

Unknown soil conditions along a major portion of the project path led to cost overruns that required additional funding to finish the work, which included sewer-line replacement and trench paving. The system will serve more than 1,000 users.

"Financing modern sewerage and water systems has become increasingly difficult, yet these projects are absolutely essential not only to eliminate public health concerns, but also to provide the infrastructure necessary for economic development," Murtha said. "Our thanks to Rural Development for coming through with funding that will allow North Belle Vernon to complete this vital work."

In 2002, PENNVEST provided a \$3.7 million loan and a \$2.2 million grant to construct 12 miles of collection lines to separate the old combination sewer system and to eliminate three combined sewer overflows that resulted in the flow of untreated waste into Speers Run during wet weather.