

August 7, 2008 - Murtha: Quemahoning Water Supply Project Receives \$1.93 million Federal Grant

LINCOLN TOWNSHIP, PA -- Congressman John P. Murtha (PA-12) announced today that the U.S. Environment Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded a \$1.93 million grant to Somerset County for continued construction of the Quemahoning Water Supply Project.

“Through the diligent work of the Somerset County Commissioners and local officials, the much anticipated Quemahoning Water Supply Project is fast becoming a reality,” commented Murtha. “Access to reliable and clean water is essential to economic development and public health, and I’m proud to be able to support such a worthwhile project.”

The Quemahoning Water Supply Project will construct approximately 100,000 feet (almost 19 miles) of 18 inch finished water transmission lines to the communities of Somerset Borough, Conemaugh Township, Jenner Township, Lincoln Township, Somerset Township-Friedens Area, and Boswell Borough. Together, these communities will be supplied with 1.1 million gallons of water per day.

Currently, 75 percent of finished water pipeline has been installed, and the raw water line is 100 percent installed. Completion of the pipeline is scheduled for the end of September of this year, and the local communities will be able to tie into a functioning water system by the end of 2008.

Additionally, Congressman Murtha was able to secure \$675,000 in the current fiscal year (FY2008) to connect the Stoystown Water Project to a reliable water source. The current lack of public infrastructure in Stoystown forces residents, schools and public safety personnel to use bottled water and water trucks at certain times throughout the year. This project will create a 1.3 mile waterline to provide them with reliable access to water year round, and eventually connect Stoystown to the Quemahoning Water Supply Project.

To further build upon this success, Congressman Murtha is working to secure funding to link the Village of Ralphton, Somerset County, with the Municipal Water Authority of Jenner Township. The proposed project will serve Ralphton residents who currently suffer from a lack of safe drinking water due to malfunctioning sewage systems and groundwater that is contaminated with bacteria and mine seepage.

###