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For Immediate Release

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McClellandtown, PA - U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Rural Utilities Program Administrator James Andrew and German Township Sewer Authority members celebrated Earth Day today with a ceremonial check presentation of \$7,945,000 from Rural Development to the Authority for its sewer project.

"I'm always pleased when another community is able to finance the modernization of its sewage infrastructure. We have worked so hard, over the years, to bring new systems on line that will eliminate the health hazards associated with outdated facilities and open up opportunities for economic development in rural areas of southwestern Pennsylvania," Congressman John Murtha said. "My congratulations to German Township and my thanks to Rural Development for its role in making this project a reality."

"German Township Sewer Authority and Rural Development show its commitment to being good stewards of the earth through today's funding announcement for sewer improvements," said Andrew. "The wastewater project will be first steps to helping resolve the issues the township is facing and in restoring the system back to an acceptable state of operation."

Rural Development's \$3,145,000 loan and \$4,800,000 grant will be used to construct wastewater collection, conveyance, pumping and treatment facilities to serve approximately 477 residential and commercial users in the Edenborn and McClelland town areas of German Township-phase one of the total project. Existing sewage facilities in the project area consist of wildcat sewers, on-lot sewage disposal systems and two non-municipal sewage treatment plants owned by the Albert Gallatin School District. Numerous on-lot systems located throughout the project area are malfunctioning due to small lot sizes, steep slopes and poor soil conditions. Many sections experience intolerable conditions due to the gross pollution of untreated or improperly treated sewage.

"Rural Development is truly committed to improving the lives in rural America and the future of our rural communities," said Pennsylvania State Director Gary H. Groves, of USDA Rural Development. "The funding of German Township's sewer project demonstrates our commitment for a healthier environment."

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal agency for rural development needs by offering financial and technical assistance to individuals, businesses and communities. USDA Rural Development programs include funding for day care centers, fire trucks and other community facility projects; the purchase, construction or repair of homes; loans and guarantees to rural businesses to save or create jobs; and loans and grants for water and sewer utility projects. For more information on programs offered by USDA Rural Development, contact the Pennsylvania State Office at (717) 237-2299 or visit its website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/pa.

