



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA Rural Development Awards the Broad Top Sewer Project a \$700,000 Loan

Defiance, PA – August 22, 2008 – Congressman Bill Shuster (PA-9) and USDA Rural Development Area Director Lambert Rosenbaum presented a \$700,000 ceremonial check to Broad Top Township’s Donald Hedge, Jr, Chairman, and Ernest Fuller, Secretary/Treasurer for the Township’s sewage extension project. The funds represent a waste disposal loan from Rural Development. Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer announced the award of these funds August 15 as part of a nationwide investment of \$547 million in loans and grants to provide safe drinking water and improved wastewater treatment systems. The majority of the money is the result of USDA moving the 2008 farm bill funding out to communities in a timely manner.

“Investments in infrastructure like the one Broad Top Township will make with this loan will pay dividends for current and future residents of this community,” said Congressman Shuster. “The farm bill included significant funding for projects to improve the quality of life for rural communities and I am pleased that USDA Rural Development is committed to acting quickly to get these loans out to the communities that need them.”

“This Rural Development loan will not only assist Broad Top Township with its sewer extension project, but the area’s environment and rural residents’ health and safety will benefit,” said Lambert Rosenbaum, Area Director. “This funding is a fine example of the commitment Rural Development has made to the future of our rural communities,” added Rosenbaum.

The Broad Top Township sewer-collection and line-extension project will remove health and safety hazards by eliminating the presence of untreated wastes. It will involve 43,000 linear feet of sewer lines and two pumping stations. The project will serve 95 residential customers and three nonresidential customers in Round Knob, Finleyville and North Point in Bedford County. The \$1,270,000 project includes a Community Development Block Grant of \$168,000 and the borrower’s contribution of \$402,000.

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 renewable energy; 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.

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