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AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES \$190 MILLION FOR RURAL WATER PROJECTS

Recovery Act Funds Will Help Improve Infrastructure in Rural Areas of 17 States

WASHINGTON, October 6, 2009 — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the selection of \$190 million in water and environmental project loans and grants that are being funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Dallas Tonsager, Under Secretary for Rural Development, made the announcement on behalf of Vilsack during a speech at the National Rural Water Association meeting in Louisville, Ky.

“Recovery Act projects are putting people to work and helping rural communities of all sizes build a foundation for economic strength and future prosperity,” said Tonsager. “The 27 water and wastewater projects we’re announcing today are helping to achieve the Obama Administration’s economic recovery goals to rebuild and revitalize the nation’s infrastructure while creating or retaining jobs.”

Altogether, USDA has announced \$1.8 billion for water and environmental project loans and grants, benefiting people throughout the country.

The City of Armour in Douglas County, South Dakota will receive a \$1,136,000 loan and a \$564,000 grant to rehabilitate/repair sewer lines and manholes. The current population of Armour is 782.

The City of Corsica in Douglas County, South Dakota will receive a \$171,000 loan and a \$128,000 grant to install a 8-inch sanitary sewer main to extend from the new industrial area east to the City’s sewer lagoon approximately one-half mile away. In addition, a new force main and lift station pump is planned near the lagoon area. The current population of Corsica is 644.

The ARRA funding announced today is being administered by [USDA Rural Development’s Water and Environmental Program](#) which provides loans and grants to ensure that the necessary investments are made in water and wastewater infrastructure to deliver safe drinking water and protect the environment in rural areas.

Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the terms of the loan or grant agreement.

President Obama signed The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 into law on Feb. 17, 2009. It is designed to jumpstart the nation’s economy, create or save millions of jobs and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The Act includes measures to modernize our nation’s infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

More information about USDA's Recovery Act efforts is available at www.usda.gov/recovery. More information about the Federal government's efforts on the Recovery Act is available at www.recovery.gov.

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