

USDA Rural Development Funding

Available for Communities to Assess

Future Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Projects

by Pat Scalera,
CEO



Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA is providing \$14.2 Million to help rural communities identify water and wastewater infrastructure needs that can be financed through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

“Many people in smaller communities throughout the country are suffering because their local infrastructure is in desperate need of repair, and this funding will enable these communities to get the technical expertise they need to make these much-needed improvements”, said Vilsack. “One of the primary goals of the Recovery Act is to rebuild our communities, and this investment will help us to meet the basic needs of providing clean, safe water infrastructure in struggling communities.”

As of June 15, 2009, New York Rural Water Association has hired two individuals to assist our communities in applying for this stimulus money that is available. Our ARRA Circuit Riders are Liz Tedford who comes to us from the Clinton County Health Department

and will be helping the communities on the Eastern side of the state from Jefferson County down to Delaware County and East to Westchester County; and George Von Pless who retired from the USDA, Rural Development, who will be helping communities from Central New York to Western New York. Both are available immediately.

We urge you to get involved with our staff and your engineers to put together your applications. If you ever planned on doing some upgrades or new construction to your systems, now is the time. Get in touch with our ARRA Circuit Riders and they can assist you with the process. This program will only be available for seventeen months, so take advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity.

Call our toll free number at 1-888-697-8725 to leave a message for Liz at extension 19 or George Von Pless at extension 23. They will promptly set up an appointment with you. 💧