
BISMARCK MARKS WASTEWATER PLANT COMPLETION

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~ USDA Rural Development Missouri State Director Janie Dunning

USDA Rural Development State Director Janie Dunning offered her congratulations to the city of Bismarck in March for the recent completion of its wastewater system improvement project.

Prior to the new wastewater treatment plant, the City had settling issues with its treatment plant that resulted in decreased efficiency. Infrastructure improvements were also made to sewer mains, manholes and lift stations.

"This new wastewater treatment plant ensures the 1,468 residents of Bismarck will continue to have a safe dependable and sanitary means of waste disposal," said Dunning as she presented a plaque recognizing completion of the project to Administrative Assistant Alan Williams. "Congratulations to the City on the plant's completion."

USDA Rural Development funds totaling \$2,500,000 in the form of a loan and a \$2,965,923.92 grant were used for the project. Funds from USDA were supplemented by funding through the Missouri Department of Economic Development's Community Development Block Grant Program made possible through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

According to Dunning, USDA, through its rural development mission area, has an active portfolio of more than \$197 billion in loans and loan guarantees. These programs, she explained, are designed



Following a tour of the facility led by Williams, Dunning said, "One of the keys to quality of life in rural cities, towns and villages is maintenance of infrastructure. It is important that we provide communities like Bismarck with the resources necessary to ensure a decent quality of life and help attract and keep residents and businesses."

She also noted that the City had made a right choice in starting the process of seeking funds early.

"Alan had mentioned to me that because of the new plant, city water bills have risen to around \$40 a month," said Dunning. "This project was completed with the help of stimulus money. Cities starting their projects now are having to pay for the building of their new treatment plants with funding coming only from loans. Residents of those cities will have water bills that run around \$100 a month. People can't afford that — they don't want to pay that. No matter what one thinks about the stimulus, it has allowed Bismarck to build this new plant where city water bills will still be affordable." □

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to "improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers, as well as improve the quality of life in rural America."