



THE SPIGOT

from the NORTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION

Revolving Loan Funds Still Available

The Rural Water Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) was established under a grant from USDA/Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to provide financing to eligible utilities for pre-development costs associated with proposed water and wastewater projects. RLF funds can also be used with existing water/wastewater systems and the short-term costs

incurred for replacement equipment, small-scale extension of services, or other small capital projects that are not a part of a system's regular operations and maintenance.

Loan amounts may not exceed \$100,000 or 75 percent of the total project cost, whichever is less. The program allows a maximum repayment period of 10 years. The repayment period cannot exceed the useful life of the facilities or financed item. Five year, interest only, pre-development loans will also be available. The RLF does not require an engineer, bond counsel, or architect.

Loans will be made at the lower of the poverty or market interest rate as published by Rural Utilities Service (RUS), with a minimum of 3 percent at the time of closing. The most current rates are available on the RUS Water and Environmental Programs home page at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWEP_HomePage.html.

Applicants can contact the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association, 701-258-9249, for assistance in acquiring, preparing, and submitting the required documents.

Operator Expense Reimbursement Program to Continue

By Larry Thelen

North Dakota Department of Health

The North Dakota Legislature provided \$180,000 to the North Dakota Department of Health to continue the Operator Expense Reimbursement Program (OERG) through June 30, 2013. The OERG was originally funded by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. The OERG provides funding for public water systems (excluding transient systems) serving less than 3,300 people to offset certification and training expenses. Expenses for wastewater operators are not eligible under the program. The department was unsuccessful in obtaining state funding to implement a similar program for wastewater operators.

The OERG will continue to be administered by the Municipal Facilities Division using the same criteria used in the past for expense reimbursement. The following expenses are eligible for reimbursement under the program: certification and renewal fees, operator training costs (registration fees, manuals, study guides, etc.), exam fees, vehicle mileage, lodging, and meals.

The Municipal Facilities Division appreciates the support provided by systems and technical assistance organizations. Continuation of the program would not have occurred without such support.

Those with questions concerning the OERG should contact Tara Ritter of the Municipal Facilities Division at 701-328-5269 or tdritter@nd.gov.

N.D. RURAL WATER SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION

26th Annual Water EXPO - Feb. 14-16, 2012

EXPO 2012 - Fargo
Mark Your Calendar & Save the Dates
Feb. 14-16, 2012

Ramada Plaza & Suites
1635 42nd St. S, Fargo, ND 58103
701-277-9000

Contact our office with any questions or comments regarding EXPO 2012. We look forward to bringing the EXPO to Fargo.



N.D. Rural Water Systems Association
2718 Gateway Avenue, Suite #201
Bismarck, ND 58503 • 1-800-349-6951

TOP TEN REASONS TO ATTEND



OCTOBER 4-6, 2011
Louisville, Kentucky

10. **We've Got ESP!**
(Equipment, Services, Products!)
9. **Every Imaginable Piece of Equipment!**
(See #3 below!)
8. **HANDS-ON TRAINING!**
(Your hands, doing the "hands-on"!)
7. **You might be driving home in a NEW DODGE TRUCK!**
(You get 25 chances per day with a FULL registration!)
6. **Latest in Regulatory Requirements!**
(They keep making 'em, we'll keep you up-to-date!)
5. **Bourbon Country!**
(I'll drink to that!)
4. **CAREER OPPORTUNITY SHOWCASE!**
(Know someone looking for a career in the water industry? Bring 'em along!)
3. **Test drive all kinds of equipment!**
(Think: LARGE boy toys...oh, and lady's toys, too!)
2. **NETWORKING!**
(See old friends, make new friends, talk to other utility people!)
1. **IT'S THE INDUSTRY EVENT YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!!!!**
(Seriously!)

FOR MORE INFO GO TO

WWW.H2O-XPO.ORG

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STATE AND NATIONAL
RURAL WATER ASSOCIATIONS**