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News Release

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DEQ Awards Grant Money to Salina Public Works Authority for Water System Improvements

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has awarded a grant to Salina Public Works Authority to help the water system come into compliance with federal regulations. The funding is through a DEQ grant program that is designed to assist public water supply systems that serve less than 10,000 people. Systems can use the money for planning and design services for drinking water projects from a licensed professional engineer.

The maximum grant amount available for each project application is \$125,000. Grants are awarded based upon the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Priority System. Through this system, high consideration is given for projects to protect public health, comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act, and correct design deficiencies.

"These grants are funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. However, Oklahoma, through its DEQ, was the only state to set aside funding for small community engineering projects. Safe drinking water is a top priority in my district and across the state," said state Sen. Mary Easley. "This is especially important to note because the United States takes their safe drinking water for granted when other countries don't have the luxury of safe drinking water," she added.

"The town of Salina and I are grateful to DEQ for this grant," said state Rep. Doug Cox. "These grants help small communities like Salina afford the same design and engineering, to ensure high quality safe drinking water, available to larger communities".

"This grant opportunity affords water systems the ability to plan and design projects that may not have otherwise been possible due to lack of funds," said DEQ Executive Director Steve Thompson.

More information on this grant opportunity is available at http://www.deq.state.ok.us/wqdnew/dwsrf/engineering_grant.html. Interested public water supply systems can also contact Brad Cook at (405) 702-8237 or brad.cook@deq.ok.gov.

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