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## News Release

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For Immediate Release: May 6, 2010  
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### **DEQ Awards Grant Money to McIntosh County Rural Water District #8 for Water System Improvements**

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has awarded a grant to McIntosh County Rural Water District #8 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.

"This grant will help to ensure that good, clean drinking water is available for the citizens served by McIntosh County Rural Water District #8. Access to water in rural areas of Oklahoma adds to our quality of life," said state Sen. Roger Ballenger.

"During a time when it is popular to harbor ill feelings toward state and federal government, this is a prime example of state government working to help families in rural Oklahoma to improve their quality of life," said state Rep. Terry Harrison.

"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](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](mailto:brad.cook@deq.ok.gov).

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