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News Release

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DEQ Awards Grant Money to Osage Co. Rural Water District #21 for Water System Improvements

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has awarded a grant to Osage County Rural Water District #21 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 drinking water grants are very important to small water districts. Without them, they would not be able to upgrade their systems and thus provide safe, clean drinking water to their customers," said state Sen. Joe Sweeden.

"This is a great help to the citizens served by Osage County Rural Water District #21 in providing and upgrading their quality of life. This grant is a great resource for planning and designing services to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act, which will ensure that this rural water district will meet future needs," said state Rep. Eddie Fields.

"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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