



NEWS RELEASE

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Corps, partners to conduct groundbreaking ceremony for Washington-Amwell Water System Extension

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Water Authority, Washington County, PENNVEST, PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, will hold a Groundbreaking ceremony for the Washington-Amwell Water System Extension Project, Aug. 18 at 10:30 a.m. The ceremony will take place at the Washington Township Municipal Building on 112 Municipal Lane in Prosperity, PA.

The project consists of the design and construction of a public water supply system extension consisting of approximately 29,500 feet of water main in Washington Township, Greene County and Amwell Township, Washington County. The water extension will provide water for 200 additional families

Residents of the project area currently depend upon private wells, springs and cisterns for water. Groundwater in the area is very poor quality and quantities are very limited. In 2007, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) found that some of the water sources were contaminated with bacteria. Residents also have reported that the water tastes and smells like sulfur. Many of the residents have water sources that run dry in the summer. These residents must purchase load of water for drinking and household use. Because there has been no public water supply system, there is not public fire protection. The project will install fire hydrants along the entire route of the project and enable the residents to have public fire protection.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is providing \$1,000,000 of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, through the Section 313, South Central Pennsylvania Environmental Improvement Program, to support the construction of this project. The South Central Pennsylvania Environmental Improvement Program, often referred to as Section 313 Program covers a 15-county area in South Central Pennsylvania. The Section 313 Program provides for design and construction oversight to communities for projects involving wastewater treatment and related facilities, water supply, storage treatment and distribution facilities and surface resource protection and development.

Other sources of funding include H2O (\$5M grant) and PENNVEST (\$1,815,420 loan) and Washington County Local Share Account (\$500,000 grant).