

Southeast RCAP Waterlines



Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc.

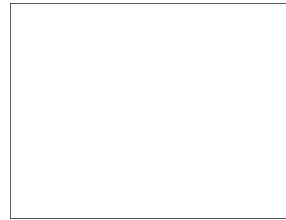
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Our President & CEO

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Look for us on the web at: www.southeastrcap.org



Water Is Life®

Summer 2008

Our mission:

The mission of Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc. is to promote the development of affordable water and wastewater facilities, activities and resources to improve the quality of life for low income rural residents.

Who we are:

Southeast RCAP, Inc. is a private not-for-profit corporation and was created in the 1960s to serve five counties surrounding Roanoke. Now the agency serves the states of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. To date, Southeast RCAP has brought clean water and wastewater facilities to more than 450,000 residents in its seven state network.

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Southeast RCAP Technical Assistance Provider Jo Ann Ray assists a community volunteer in tapping a water line in a SELF HELP project in Virginia. For more on this story of how community volunteers can greatly reduce the costs of local water and sewer improvement projects, please turn to page 8. Plus check out our website for all or our services www.southeastrcap.org

Southeast RCAP Waterlines

A quarterly publication of Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc.

Florida community receives water grant

BLACKMAN—Blackman Community Water System in Florida has received major funding support from USDA Rural Development and the Florida Legislature.

Blackman is located along SR 189, northwest of Crestview in Okaloosa County, FL. Currently, all of the residents are on individual wells. Because of poor water quality, they must resort to digging very deep wells to obtain palatable drinking water. Blackman is surrounded by na-

tional forest and the residents are concerned about recent bouts of forest fires when fire protection in the area is limited to the use of tanker trucks that the volunteer fire department operates.

Residents have also voiced concerns about drought conditions, which have not affected their water supplies yet, but have created problems for neighboring communities. As a result of all of these concerns, Blackman residents have



Board member Jim Turner and Rural Development Area Specialist Joanne Van Hall watch as Board President Jeanette Cook signs the conditions letter.

taken a proactive approach to start up their own non-profit water system.

(See **BLACKMAN** page 2)

Governor's Water Project a success

EBENEZER—Community members recently celebrated the dedication of four new homes in Buckingham County as part of the Governor's Water Project in Virginia.

More than fifty guests joined the four families benefiting from the program in a ribbon cutting ceremony and press conference.

The Governor's Water Project is designed to bring

(See **SUCCESS** page 9)



Southeast RCAP board members, county officials, legislative representatives and community members join family members in the ribbon cutting for four new homes.

Blackman

From Page 1

In November 2003, Joan Douglas, a Technical Assistance Provider (TAP) for Southeast RCAP, received notification of Blackman's needs through a grant writer for the county.

It was in this first meeting with the community members that Ms. Douglas first met Jeanette Cook, a native resident of Blackman and president of the Blackman Community Center. Ms. Cook was fiercely determined to bring a drinking water system to the community.

Ms. Douglas next assisted Ms. Cook in the process of creating a non-profit water board. This included providing a thorough manual on creating a non-profit board, training the new board members on process, procedure, and board responsibility, assisting with filing proper docu-

ments with the state and IRS, and assisting in the creation of by-laws, rules and regulations, policies, membership applications and forms.

The process of preparing the board and getting IRS status took some time. The Blackman board's greatest achievement during that formative period was to keep the faith that the project was feasible, and continuing to meet regularly, making quorum.

Once the board was formed, Southeast RCAP worked with the board on a number of tasks. Together they completed a feasibility study, and Southeast RCAP assisted in the request-for-quotes process to hire an engineer, acted as a liaison between the board and funding entities, identified funding sources for the



State Representative Greg Evers, Jeanette Cook and County Commissioner Bill Roberts celebrate the successful funding efforts for the Blackman community water system.

project and assisted with the funding application process, as well as additional board training as the need arose.

Several times during the course of the project, Ms. Douglas and Ms. Cook were told that the project was not possible. Sometimes, even the board members felt discouraged.

The engineer for the project, Beth Brant, Rural Development Specialist Joanne Van Hall, County Commissioner Bill Roberts, and State Representative Greg Evers never wavered on their belief, however, that success would follow perseverance.

It was through the support of the overall team that the funding for this project is finally pouring in.

In this year's state appropriation, Blackman received \$300,000.

This funding gave the state USDA Rural Development office the confidence in the project that it needed to increase the loan grant ratio for the project to 51% grant (\$2,984,000) and 49% loan (\$1,961,000).

Blackman was a recipient of some of the additional project funding that the Farm Bill provided to each state. Additionally, Blackman is the first project in Florida to be given the 2.75% interest rate.

The project needs an additional \$600,000 to begin construction. The county is applying for CDBG funding on their behalf to close the funding gap. No one is doubting now, that this water system will be built.



Board members and citizens review the letter of conditions, plats and contracts at the board meeting.

Low interest homeowner water well loans are available

ROANOKE—Southeast RCAP is the recipient of a significant grant from USDA Rural Development for a low interest household water well system loan program.

Since receiving the grant in 2005, Southeast RCAP's Loan Fund Program has made 102 loans in the program. Over \$467,000 has been loaned out. Following the initial USDA grant to create the program plus Southeast RCAP matching funds, and then a second recapitalization grant from USDA, the total household water well system loan fund program was just over \$1 million in capital.

The loan program is designed to assist low- to moderate-income individuals needing loans to con-

struct, refurbish, and service their household well systems. The program serves residents in the seven states comprising Southeast RCAP's service region. The purpose of the program is to target loans to the significant numbers of homeowners in the seven states whose geographically isolated households lack water service, but for whom it is not feasible to be connected to new or existing community water systems. Loan applicants must own and occupy the home for which they are applying for a water well loan. The water well system being funded may not be associated with the construction of a new dwelling. Also the water well system being funded by the loan may not be used to substitute for water

service available from public water systems. The home also must be located in a rural area. The combined household income for an individual applying for a loan under this program should not be more than 100 percent of the median non-metropolitan household income for the state. Priority will be given to applicants who are disabled, elderly, or who have minor children. The loans have a one percent interest rate and a twenty-year repayment term. A maximum of \$8,000 per household may be borrowed under this program. In the seven states of the Southeast RCAP service region, between one-eighth and one-

third of all homeowners rely on private wells. For example, in Virginia nearly 22 percent use private wells. Another telling statistic for Virginia is the 19,550 occupied homes lacking complete plumbing facilities. The loan program is meant to help those rural households whose existing wells need repair or re-drilling. Many of these homes lack a reliable water source and could qualify for a loan to construct a water well system if the other eligibility requirements are met.

Loan applications can be found on the Southeast RCAP website www.southeastrcap.org.

Self-Help

From Page 8

the work. Training was provided for the workers to include Virginia Department of Transportation flagging requirements, first aid, pipe laying techniques, safety, and using VDHCD's self-help model. Southeast RCAP supervised the actual construction of the water lines and Technical Assistance Providers participated in doing the work. During the construction, women of the

community provided food and refreshments at the old school house nearby. Most of the workers performing the construction were past retirement age with some into their 80s.

Wright has been asked to present a paper on this project at the 23rd Annual Conference of the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators in October.



Jason Hunt (center), a Roanoke Valley student in the Information Technology degree program at National College, completed an externship with Southeast RCAP this spring. Here he confers with Bill Griffin, Director of Planning and Development and Donna Robinson, Director of Human Resources and Operations on redesign of the agency's website.

Morton Lane update: Innovative rainwater harvesting project is complete

GREENE COUNTY—Southeast RCAP began working in the Morton Lane community in Greene County, Virginia in 2002 to provide new housing to residents who lacked complete indoor plumbing and lived in substandard housing. This project eventually led to a joint effort between local and state governments, community action agencies and contractors in order to provide innovative solutions to the small community's water and wastewater needs.

duced an inadequate supply for all of the dwellings and residents.

Southeast RCAP became involved in this project by request of the Skyline Community Action Program. This local community action agency asked that Southeast RCAP provide technical assistance, engineering and field construction help so that housing rehabilitation funding requirements for water and wastewater services could be met.



A dedication ceremony was held in June to celebrate the completion of the Morton Lane project. On the left is Kim Smith, Director of Skyline Community Action Agency and Jack Naylor, Housing and Community Programs Manager recognizing Southeast RCAP's role in the project along with other participants.

Originally, eleven residents had been using a pit privy for their cluster of mobile homes. They never had any modern sewage disposal system in their dwellings.



This photo depicts construction of one of three homes in the Morton Lane community.

There was a single community well which had been drilled approximately 15 years ago, but it pro-

Three homes were constructed for the families, but poor soil conditions prevented individual onsite septic fields. A resolution was found in constructing a conventional mass drain field with a pumping system off site on a neighboring lot.

A solution to the problem of sufficient water to the new homes was achieved through design of rainwater collection systems on the roofs of the homes.



Prior to their installation, Southeast RCAP Technical Assistance Provider Douglas W. Phillips, Jr., P.E. shows some components of the potable rainwater system: the roof wash collection unit and filter and the storage tanks in the background.

Filtering and treatment mechanisms are employed in order to provide potable water.



Workers install the rainwater harvesting collection tanks and mixing mechanisms which are buried underground.

The contracting company, Rainwater Management Solutions, designed the collection system. It consists of a roof wash collection and filtering component, underground storage tanks and valves with water produced by the well. The system is further constructed so that it is "sustainable." This means that with minimal home-

owner maintenance, the system will operate indefinitely without a tank drainage for cleaning or regular replacement of parts and filters.

Southeast RCAP Board of Directors member Cabell Brand has been instrumental in promoting the use of rainwater harvesting as a responsible conservation method. He promotes the use of this technology as one viable answer to the problem of eliminating homes lacking complete indoor plumbing.

Water is Life luncheon recognizes state awardees

ROANOKE—Southeast RCAP hosted its annual Water Is Life Luncheon in celebration of National Drinking Water Week this May. Over 280 individuals from across the state attended. In an ongoing partnership with the Virginia Dept. of Health's Office of Drinking Water, Southeast RCAP hosted recipients of the State's water treatment plant awards. Over 80 public water systems re-

ceived awards for meeting or exceeding state and federal standards for water quality and plant operations. Also during the week, Southeast RCAP hosted a panel discussion on "Water: Our Most Precious Resource," workshops on Fair Housing and our USDA Household Well Loan Program, and held trainings for Southeast RCAP's AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteers and supervisors.



From left to right, Mary Terry recognizes Rural Housing Specialists Paul Moyer and Amazetta Anderson with the agency's Water Drop Awards along with Board Chairman Terry Lewis and Melissa Gardner.



Subscribe to the Safe Drinking Water Trust eBulletin

From Minnesota to Mississippi, from New York to Nevada, small water systems managers face similar challenges. There's no blueprint for solving them, but the Safe Drinking Water Trust eBulletin is designed to be a primary resource in seeking solutions.

The eBulletin will provide tools to focus on the large issue - providing clean drinking water - while making informed decisions that will benefit your community, keep you in compliance with EPA regulations, and maintain your water quality in the most proactive way.

Every three weeks you will receive a free, easy to access, new eBulletin covering need-to-know topics delivered directly to your inbox. To register, log onto www.crg.org/bulletin/index.asp and simply provide your e-mail in the form provided.

Volunteers for Communities program flourishes

BARREN SPRINGS—Southeast RCAP's Volunteers for Communities program is an unique project that matches volunteers with communities throughout the Southeastern United States that are in need of assistance with local development projects.

During Spring Break 2008 725 student volunteers from 26 schools, colleges and universities worked in 24 communities through the Volunteers for Communities program. Those figures will be nearly doubled during the Summer Break months.

What compels college students to give up their Daytona Beach, Ft. Lauderdale and Cancun Spring Break trips to scrape paint, rebuild decrepit homes, haul away trash and other back-breaking work? The students universally reply that it's "the people."

In the Volunteers for Communities program, student

(See FLOURISHES page 5)



VfC volunteers from St. Joseph's University and community members relax after a hard day's work and listen to stories about the Barren Springs community in Wythe County, Virginia.

East Palatka Regional Water System nearly complete

EAST PALATKA—The East Palatka Regional Water System Project in Putnam County, Florida has been an ongoing project with Southeast RCAP since 1997. After many delays, a new water system is almost completed. The current history of this project is linked to the origins of the community.

In the early 1800's many people lived on the western shore of the St. Johns River, just north of Palatka, in a community known as President's City. Those residents were primarily African Americans who made their living by loading and unloading mail boats traveling along the river. By 1890, Henry Flagler built a steel bridge across the St. Johns River at Jacksonville, linking his hotel in St. Augustine to the railroad. Soon, the railroad came through an area east of Palatka and mail service shifted from boats to the railroad. Gradually residents, businesses and the churches of President's City moved to the area along the railroad that is now called East Palatka. As the years passed, the railroad line was rerouted away from the area of East Palatka and the community ceased to grow and prosper.

Until 1997, the mostly older, low-income, African American residents living near the former railroad track did not have a cen-

tralized water or wastewater system. Raw sewage leached from leaking septic tanks and contaminated the low-lying swampy terrain. Effluent from inadequate or non-existent septic systems would pool on the ground's surface during high rain periods. For many years, East Palatka residents fought hard to obtain the same quality water and wastewater service as their Palatka neighbors. In 1996, they obtained a Community Development Block Grant with assistance from the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council. They were able to construct a small interim water package plant to serve approximately 70 homes in the most seriously affected area.

The year following the plant's completion, East Palatka was named a Water 2000 Community and received over \$4,000,000 in loans and grants from USDA Rural Development. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection provided \$835,000, and the St. Johns River Water Management District provided more than \$35,000 for project management. The legislature also set aside additional funding to construct the East Palatka Regional Water facility. The engineering firm for the project determined that a well site near the Public Works Department provided a sufficient quantity

of water for the project, however reverse osmosis technology would be required to treat the water as the saline and mineral content was high.

Southeast RCAP obtained user agreements from residents and businesses to meet the letters of conditions as set forth by Rural Development. Over 850 user agreements were required to make the project feasible. Delays occurred with changes of personnel. Without a public works director and engineer, the project came to a stand still.

Eventually a new public works director began the process of hiring new engineers for the water system project, and reputable contractors to complete the interim wastewater system. The new engineering firm, Jones Edmunds and Associates (JEA), reviewed the proposal of the original firm and determined that a water source could be located that did not require advanced treatment.

JEA reviewed data supplied by the water management district and through samples obtained from existing wells, to search for a better water source. A water source far to the south of the project service area was identified as being a good potential source and a test well was dug. It did not have suffi-

cient quantity to meet their needs. A time consuming search for well sites with adequate flows and political opposition delayed the project even further. Ultimately, it was decided that Putnam County would pursue constructing a water facility that uses reverse osmosis near the current public works department. Permitting and funding issues again delayed the project. The original \$4.5 million project cost from 1997 was now inflated to \$17 million.

Construction for the East Palatka Regional Water System began in the winter of 2007. The estimated cost of construction and sources for funds are as follows:

USDA RD Grant	\$4,957,400
EPA Grant	624,000
St. Johns River WMD Grant	\$6,277,423
Florida DEP Grant	\$835,000
USDA RD Loan	\$6,322,900
State Revolving Fund Loan	\$9,783,577
Total	\$28,800,300

Southeast RCAP persistence in staying with the project through staff, engineer and administrative turn-over, and assisting in completing the letters of conditions of USDA, and other funding agencies has contributed greatly to the successful conclusion of this project.

Success

From Page 1

clean drinking water access and sanitary waste disposal to families living without complete indoor plumbing.

Basil Gooden, Principal Deputy Director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development addressed the gathering and shared congratulations from the state for the early successes of the project. Gooden, a Buckingham County native himself, said that the cooperative spirit and hard work involved in building the homes is what makes a true community.

Southeast RCAP President & CEO Mary C. Terry introduced her board members in attendance, representatives from county government and Congressman Virgil Goode's office. She explained the scope of the program and how Southeast RCAP is initiating these water projects across the Commonwealth.

In late December, Southeast RCAP completed the first home in Ebenezer for Carson Warner, bringing the family reliable indoor plumbing for the first time in over a decade. Warner and his family now have a modest two-bedroom home with modern plumbing. Previously, Warner, his wife and daughter lived in a 1970s era single-wide trailer on the family land in the Ebenezer community. A contaminated community well served the home, but the trailer's plumbing was unreliable and it lacked bathroom facilities.

Like hundreds of other rural Virginians, the family was forced to use an outdoor privy. Paul Moyer, Rural Housing Specialist with Southeast RCAP, said the home was identified as a good candidate for the Governor's program because of the cluster of other homes in the community in the same condition. After completing the Warner home, Mike Yoder, general contractor for the construction project, targeted the remaining three homes.



A view of the new kitchen from inside one of the new homes. The two-bedroom homes are approximately 896 sq. ft.

"Thank God you all came to help when you did," Warner said when receiving keys to his new house. "God has just blessed me and my family."

Besides John Warner's family, the families of Carson Warner, Wilhelmina Jones and Carolyn



President & CEO Mary C. Terry (center) joins Pauline Ford and John Warner on their new front porch after the ribbon cutting.

Chambers also received new homes through the project. All of the families had previously lacked complete indoor plumbing and were using the contaminated well system.

The Governor's Water Project initiative involves Southeast RCAP's partnership with Governor Tim Kaine and other state agencies to eliminate the problem of homes lacking functional indoor plumbing. At the 2006 Environment Virginia conference at Virginia Military Institute, Governor Kaine committed during his term in office to bring water to all of those homes still lacking water and plumbing. He said:

"Clean reliable drinking water and safe wastewater systems are essential to the health of our families. In rural localities, it is equally important to economic development. I am making it a goal of my administration to see that every home in Virginia has access to clean reliable drinking water by the end of my term."

Southeast RCAP was tapped as the agency in the state to address this problem while working with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. Joyce Hill, Director of Housing & Individual Projects, oversees the program at Southeast RCAP. The program is not a weatherization program or meant simply to repair homes that have bad plumbing. It is designed to address the need of those homes which lack hot and cold piped water, a bathtub or shower, toilet facilities, and a functioning kitchen sink. To qualify for the program, the residents must either own the home or have lifetime rights to the property and meet other income standards.

Self-help projects demonstrate cost effectiveness

MT. OLIVE—"Way back in the old days, people in a community would band together to pull off all kinds of public works projects like digging a well or fixing streets and sidewalks or raising a school building. That's the essence of our self-help projects today," says Bill Wright, Director of Facility Development for Southeast RCAP in Virginia.

Southeast RCAP encourages self-help projects whenever feasible because of the great advantages to involving citizens in public works projects. Wright says the biggest benefit is the community pride it generates. "These folks get the greatest boost from it," he says. "When they put in the work—and it is hard work—and then get to benefit from the system they built, that's real community building. There's real community unity and pride after that."

Wright also points out the cost savings involved with self-help projects. Communities can save tens of thousands



Volunteers glue together sections of pipe. Later pressure testing will insure proper coupling and no leaks.

of dollars in labor when community volunteers commit to significant portions of the work. The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VHDC) supports self-help projects in general because of the cost savings factor. When scoring applications for Community Development Block Grant funds, applicants receive extra points if self-help contributions are documented.

The Mt. Olive project in Virginia's King William County is the latest example of a Southeast RCAP sponsored self-help project. King William County is in Virginia's central region near the Chesapeake Bay.



Sections of water line are off-loaded next to the planned pipe route.

The Mt. Olive self-help project began as a result of VDHCDC requesting Wright to provide construction management and inspection for a water and wastewater project. The project entailed supplying the small community with potable water and wastewater service that they had never experienced before. Over 70 residents were to be served.

The first steps of the project began with a feasibility study and funding plan. A self-help proposal was drafted and a meeting with the community was held to secure an agreement for community members to commit to doing (See SELF-HELP page 11)



These volunteer workers are tapping the main water line with a one inch connection line which will serve an individual home.

Flourishes

From Page 3

volunteers pay \$150 to participate: \$25 goes to the Vfc office for administrative costs and \$125 goes directly to the host community to house and feed the volunteers and to buy supplies for the projects.

Volunteers live with residents for a typical 7 to 10 day service session. During the day they work on the assigned service project. This might entail light construction, cleaning, painting, landscaping, home repair or similar projects designed by the host community. The recipients of these efforts are the elderly, disabled and low-income residents who typically join in the work as they are able with enthusiasm inspired by the youthful volunteers.

Below is a list of the participating schools and service groups this spring:

- Belmont Hill School
- Boston College
- Cardinal Gibbons School
- Durham Academy
- Georgetown Prep
- Grand Valley State University
- Loyola College
- Malvern Prep
- Our Lady of Good Counsel
- Penn State University
- Salem State University
- St. Joseph's University
- Belmont Religious Council
- Cardinal Dougherty
- Fairfield Prep
- Georgetown University
- College of the Holy Cross
- Marquette University
- Pepperdine University
- St. Joseph's Prep
- University of Massachusetts



St. Joseph's University volunteers demolish an abandoned house in Barren Springs, Virginia.

- UMASS Newman Center
- University of Green Bay at Osh Kosh
- University of Wisconsin-Osh Kosh Newman Center
- University of Vermont
- William & Mary



Boston College students in Glasgow, Virginia worked on home repair, maintenance and improvements for low-income and disable residents as part of their volunteer experience.



St. Joseph's University volunteers work in Town of Pulaski, Virginia on a Habitat for Humanity project bringing water to a family previously lacking indoor plumbing.

Technical assistance offers hope for failing systems

ANNIE VILLAGE—The Annie Village Community is a small community of just five streets located east of U. S. Highway 701 and south of the Plantersville community in Georgetown County, South Carolina.

The septic tanks in Annie Village were inspected by the Georgetown County Health Department in April 2007 and about 44 of 51 were considered to be failing. This evaluation ranked the Annie Village community's wastewater treatment situation as the second worst in the state of South Carolina.

The homes in the Annie Village community are served by a public water supply. Residents of Annie Village are predominantly minority and low- to moderate-income. They were seeking affordable assistance to this situation.

This year, Southeast RCAP was asked to review the situation, make a new assessment and to make recommendations as to what could be done about the problem, including potential costs.

The specific goal of this project is to assess the septic tanks and soils in Annie Village Community to determine which septic tanks can be repaired or replaced. A special emphasis is to identify a low cost solution to the situation; namely, septic system repairs on the low end of

the cost spectrum versus a public sewer system on the high cost end.

In June, Technical Assistance Specialists Val Green and Bob Britts conducted an assessment of the septic tanks in the Annie Village community.

They were accompanied by local representatives Betty Vanderhorst and Rachael Myers. The Georgetown County Health Department had conducted its similar septic tank and water survey in April 2007 so this new survey would produce data from a little over a year later.

Through their door-to-door inspection, the Technical Assistance Specialists found that only 40% of the septic tanks were failing or non-functioning. This finding was in contrast to the previous survey's finding that 86% were failing.

Further research determined that as a result of the original Health Department survey, some of the septic tanks had been repaired by a contractor hired by the Coastal Conservation League a few months prior.

The new inspection further detailed that most systems in the failing or non-functioning category could be repaired with minimal to low cost interventions.

The Southeast RCAP inspection of the Annie Vil-



This damaged septic tank cover is an example of the problems plaguing the Annie Village community's overall waste water treatment system.

lage Community on June 4 confirmed that a good public drainage system exists on almost all roads. These roads are maintained by Georgetown County.

There were some lot lines that needed small ditches cleaned, and there were several other lot lines that needed drainage outlets constructed. Proper maintenance of these surface drainage and storm water management structures servicing the public roads is as crucial to the proper functioning of the individual properties' septic systems as the homeowners' maintenance of those systems.

Improper drainage from surface sources can overwhelm a septic system which is designed to process the effluent from a home and release its discharge in small amounts to

the designed septic drainage field.

If these surface drainage outlets are properly constructed and maintained, and on-site wastewater treatment systems are repaired when needed within the Annie Village community, these systems will function to provide adequate sewage treatment for the area at very reasonable costs. The combined responsibilities of both homeowners and government in maintaining the waste and storm water drainage systems will result in protection of the public health. The Technical Assistance Specialists prepared and made available a written report of their survey and findings. Private foundation dollars are being sought to assist those homeowners unable to afford repairs and maintenance of their septic systems.

Water customers in two states benefit from small town's expanded well capacity

VIRGILINA—Adding capacity to a small local water system can sometimes be a study in persistence. In the small town of Virgilina, Virginia, the persistence of Southeast RCAP Technical Assistance Providers paid off with a successful outcome.

Virgilina is a small town in Halifax County, Virginia bordering on the North Carolina state line. The town is rich in history with a mining past that includes one of the earliest Colonial era gold strikes, copper mines and tobacco and railroad booms that all went bust. The town's name is a combination of "Virginia" and "Carolina."

The present day town is occupied by 159 residents. Its public water system serves 300 plus users, however, on both sides of the state border.

This public community groundwater system now has five operational wells with an elevated 100,000 gallon gravity storage tank located across the nearby state line in North Carolina. Virgilina has had some ongoing water needs. Because of the system's low-income eligibility, Technical Assistance Provider Douglas W. Phil-

lips, Jr. P.E. was able to secure a \$50,000 grant in 2002 from Southeast RCAP's state appropriation to help with the initial stage of additions. He and Technical Assistance Provider Tom Wilson then assisted in further well development along with testing and inspection according to state compliance standards. Phillips also did the required community well design for construction permits for the overall system.

"If it can be done, obtaining services for water system contracts can be better for the project if he is both qualified as a Certified Well Driller and Utilities Contractor."
Technical Services Provider Douglas W. Phillips, Jr. P.E.

The developmental stage of well construction reached completion in 2006 with Wilson directly assisting with the driller on pump. He also conducted well sampling tests which had not been performed correctly on previous occasions. After later delays and the contractor abandoning the site and project, a year long search by Phillips and the Town of Virgilina produced a solid replacement contractor. This July Phillips certified to the state the near completion of the system and scheduled and performed the final construction inspections. This well will increase the town's legal water production capacity for its operation permit as it looks toward accommodating anticipated incoming industry in the near future.



About ten veins of metamorphic rock like this had to be busted out for the 800 ft. of water transmission line from the well to the town's main water line.



The new well house for pumping and treatment is located on a well lot and access road graciously granted by a Virgilina landowner.