

THE TOWN OF Batesburg-Leesville

Town of Batesburg-Leesville Receives Notification of Funding for Water Plant Project

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 5, 2015

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Batesburg-Leesville, SC – The Town of Batesburg-Leesville has received notification that it has been awarded funding in the amount of \$13,192,000 by USDA-Rural Development towards the much anticipated proposed water plant project.

This notification comes after years of planning and engineering, when the previous joint venture with Saluda County Water and Sewer Authority was dissolved. The Town has been under a South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Consent Order since 2013 to establish a new water source, due to insufficient water in the Town's current reservoir during severe drought conditions.

USDA-RD's announcement of funding will allow the Town to begin the first of two phases towards this project. The now funded Phase I will allow the Town to construct a Raw Water Intake station on the banks of Lake Murray at a 0.34 acre site the Town currently owns, install a raw water line to the future water plant site, construct a raw water reservoir, construct a booster pump station, and install a 16" raw water line back to the Town's current water plant site. The completion of Phase I will allow the Town to satisfy the SC DHEC Consent Order and will provide much needed water during extreme drought conditions.

Mayor Rita Crapps states "this award notification is exciting and is the culmination of a lot of hard work put in by so many people. We have been hard at work on this for a while now and it is such a relief to have the first phase of funding in hand."

Current timelines have Phase I going out for bid between January and April, with construction activities beginning around September 2016. Construction is expected to take just over a year and the Town hopes to have the new raw water source available for use around October 2017. The Town will have the

ability to draw up to 1 million gallons daily until a FERC permit is approved. Once SCE&G has approved the FERC permit, the Town will have approval to withdraw 3.7 million gallons per day.

Town Manager Ted Luckadoo adds “this approval was desperately needed. During times of drought, it becomes very stressful to watch as our current water reservoir gets lower and lower. Now we have to work diligently to stay on the current timeline so that we can have the raw water source established as quickly as possible.”

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