



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR RELEASE:** June 24, 2009  
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### **Ohio EPA Announces \$5 Million in Federal Stimulus Funds for Ohio's #1 Ranked Drinking Water Project**

#### **Village of Buckeye Lake Also Gets \$1.6 Million Interest-Free Loan from Ohio EPA for Drinking Water Distribution System to Help Ensure Health, Safety, Economic and Environmental Benefits**

#### **Project One of First in Ohio to be Significantly Funded by Federal Act, Construction Underway**

During a groundbreaking ceremony attended by federal, state, regional and local dignitaries today, Ohio EPA announced \$6,615,297 has been slated for the village of Buckeye Lake to help establish a drinking water distribution system at a much more affordable rate for residents. A zero-interest, 30-year loan worth more than \$1.6 million from Ohio EPA's Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) will supplement \$5 million made possible by the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)*.

"We're demonstrating here in Buckeye Lake today that EPA is part of the solution in this economic downturn," said U.S. EPA Region 5 Acting Administrator Bharat Mathur. "Protecting human health and the environment is a great way to put people to work and stimulate our economy."

Other agencies, including the Ohio Department of Development, the Ohio Public Works Commission, the Ohio Water Development Authority and the Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program, also supplied the village significant grants, loans and valuable technical assistance.

"This project will create new jobs and improve the health and safety for Buckeye Lake residents and visitors," said Governor Ted Strickland. "Today, we recognize the village of Buckeye Lake for their efforts to move forward with this project even before federal stimulus funding was made available. Because of their efforts and the commitment of President Obama and Ohio's Congressional Delegation, this project will directly benefit the more than 3,000 Ohioans who call Buckeye Lake home."

"Soon residents will be able to enjoy a safe, reliable source of drinking water," added Ohio EPA Director Chris Korleski. "What's more, this project will provide a much-needed boost to the local economy and will create an estimated 50 jobs."

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Federal and state funding will help make the Buckeye Lake drinking water distribution system much more affordable for village residents and businesses and bring quality drinking water and other health, safety, environmental and economic benefits to the community. Construction is underway on the system – the top ranked drinking water project in Ohio and one of the first in the state to be significantly funded by federal stimulus money. The system is expected to service nearly 1,200 households and be operational in July 2010.

The total cost of the project is approximately \$7 million. Water system customers in Buckeye Lake are estimated to save approximately \$3.8 million in interest by financing the project with the ARRA money and interest-free WSRLA loan.

Buckeye Lake remains one of the largest villages in the state without a public drinking water system, though it has been planning one for many years. There have been a number of public health concerns resulting from the current wells and small public water systems on which the village relies. Many of the small businesses in Buckeye Lake have struggled to comply with regulatory standards. The new system is expected to rectify these issues by tying in about two dozen small public water systems.

According to M•E Companies, the village's engineer, Buckeye Lake is installing nearly 67,000 feet of water lines, a pump station and a storage tank to be able to connect to the nearby village of Millersport's drinking water source. Millersport also plans to receive federal and state funding to construct larger lines to service Buckeye Lake.

Since 1998, the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account has invested more than \$630 million in improvements in Ohio communities, assisting with low-interest financing and technical assistance for necessary infrastructure needs. Ohio EPA directs the loan program and evaluates proposed projects. The Ohio Water Development Authority manages the loan account and issues bonds to ensure financing is available.

Ohio is receiving \$58.46 million in ARRA funding to combine with \$81 million in non-ARRA funding for drinking water projects. ARRA funding will support 65 drinking water projects in 52 communities. The drinking water assistance fund is estimated to save Ohio communities \$154 million in financing costs over 20 years by utilizing the combination of stimulus grants and low-interest loans. These savings are compared to systems taking market rate loans. The final drinking water project list is at [www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/dwaf\\_economic\\_stimulus.htm](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/dwaf_economic_stimulus.htm). More information on other proposed drinking water and water pollution control projects in Ohio is available in an online media kit at [www.epa.state.oh.us/pic/media/arra\\_online\\_media.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/pic/media/arra_online_media.html).

For additional information on the federal program visit:  
[www.epa.gov/recovery/](http://www.epa.gov/recovery/) - U.S. EPA ARRA fund site  
[www.recovery.gov/](http://www.recovery.gov/) - federal ARRA economic recovery site

More information and photos of today's event at Buckeye Lake will be posted later this afternoon at [www.epa.state.oh.us/pic/media/buckeye\\_lake\\_arra.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/pic/media/buckeye_lake_arra.html).

*Reporters can contact Ohio EPA's Erin Strouse or M•E Companies engineering firm (614-818-4900x490) for an artistic rendering of Buckeye Lake's drinking water distribution system.*