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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,
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Water Board Approves Four REAP Grants

OKLAHOMA CITY -- At its December 14 meeting, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board approved four Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) grants to finance local water and sewer system improvements.

The grant awards approved by the nine-member Board are the first attributed to a fiscal year legislative appropriation of \$2.4 million. The OWRB anticipates additional REAP grants throughout the year for at least 20 eligible community water systems in direct relation to monthly program allocations received by the agency. The REAP program, created by the State Legislature in 1996, targets primarily small towns that are often excluded from traditional funding programs. As a result, it is a key component of the state's overall economic development program for rural Oklahoma. To date, the Board has approved 408 REAP grants for more than \$35 million. When combined with other funding sources, REAP grants have contributed to the construction of water/wastewater projects totaling more than \$64 million throughout the state.

The four REAP grants outlined below.

- Okfuskee County Rural Water District #1 will use its \$88,000 grant to replace an aging sanitary lift station with a submersible lift station, complete with associated sewer lines, manholes, instrumentation, controls and other necessary construction and appurtenances.

- Noble County Rural Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Management District #4 will use its \$39,999 grant to move water lines that are dangerously close to adjoining sewer lines of another entity. The relocation of some 4,100 feet of lateral lines will prevent potential contamination.

- The Town of Stonewall, in Pontotoc County, will use its \$99,863 REAP grant to repair a leaking structure in their water treatment plant and replace two failing service pumps and backwash pumps, along with related necessary appurtenances and construction.

- Wapanucka Public Works Authority, in Johnston County, will use its \$59,000 grant to extend water sewer and fire protection service to a new sports complex for the Wapanucka School System. The project will consist of approximately 2,000 feet of water line and 700 feet of sewer line along with related construction and appurtenances.

For more information about the Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) program, contact OWRB Financial Assistance Division Chief Joe Freeman at (405) 530-8800.