

MEDIA RELEASE

USDA Awards Second Largest Grant in New Jersey for Townbank Water Main Improvements to the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority

Lower Township, NJ – U.S. Senators Robert Menendez and Frank R. Lautenberg announced the USDA has awarded the second largest grant in New Jersey to the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority (LTMUA) to fund the \$10.8 million water main improvement project for Townbank. With \$2.7 million in grants and \$8.1 million in loans, the proposed water main improvements will ensure each resident in Townbank will have access to safe potable water meeting all State and Federal Safe Drinking Water guidelines as well as improved fire safety.

Currently, the residences in Townbank rely on private wells for potable water service. Due to confirmed high-levels of contaminants in the groundwater supply, the LTMUA proposed to install a water main throughout the Townbank area to provide contaminate-free public water to those residences. The water main infrastructure expansion will include extending the 12" water main located on Townbank Road along Clubhouse Drive to Cox Hall Creek and installing 8" water mains with fire hydrants along all municipal streets. The proposed water main improvements will store a total of 368,600 gallons of water. Multiple connection points with the water mains will be provided to the Villas water main infrastructure to provide redundancy, increase flow and reduce the chances of a potential public water outage in the Villas section and throughout the Township.

"Ensuring that communities like Lower Township are eligible for Department of Agriculture investments like this was a cause I helped to champion in the Senate, and it will help make this an even healthier and more prosperous area," said Menendez. "This investment will not only ensure a clean water supply that meets all safety guidelines, it will not only improve fire safety, it will also provide construction jobs. In these difficult economic times, investments like these are an investment in the future."

In an effort to provide the maximum amount of service area at the lowest cost, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) C-900 pipe was selected due to its lower installation cost and its long service life. The water main installation project will have minimal annual operating costs. Costs will include short-term assets, including pumps and emergency repairs.

Remington, Vernick & Walberg Engineers was successful in preparing and submitting the application to the USDA Rural Development on behalf of the LTMUA for the much-needed funds. Corporate-wide, the company operates out of 11 offices and serves more than 250 municipalities throughout the tri-state region as consultant, including the LTMUA. If your municipality is interested in inquiring whether it is eligible for USDA Funding, please contact Marc DeBlasio, Senior Associate, in our Wildwood office at (609) 522-5150 for more information.