



Rural Development – Michigan

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Media Advisory

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Rural Communications to Expand Broadband Service with USDA Loan

EAST LANSING, Mich. - Jan. 12, 2005 – A Three Rivers company that provides wireless broadband service plans to more than double its service area with the assistance of a loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

“Making broadband service available in rural America is a high priority for the Bush Administration. This service is necessary for rural area’s to compete in the new information economy,” said Dale Sherwin, state director for USDA Rural Development.

Rural Development has approved a \$1,985,000 loan to Rural Communications of Three Rivers. Rural Communications was founded in 2003 and provides wireless broadband service primarily in St. Joseph County.

When new equipment financed by the loan is installed, the company’s service area will go from 200-square miles to about 500-square miles, said company president Jerry Ludwick. Some of the communities that will be added to Rural Communications wireless-broadband service area include Bronson, Colon, Mendon, Marcellus and Mottville.

The loan funds will be used to primarily to purchase modems and transmitting equipment.

Event Information

Who: Rural Communications and USDA Rural Development representatives.

What: Check presentation to Rural Communications. The presentation will represent the final closing of the loan.

When: Noon, Friday
Jan. 14, 2005

Where: Rural Communications
52 N. Main Street (2nd Floor)
Three Rivers, Mich.

Rural Development administers housing; business and industry; and community development loan and grant programs. In Fiscal Year 2004, USDA Rural Development provided over \$500 million in loan and grant financing in rural Michigan.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

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