

Missouri Governor Matt Blunt



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Gov. Blunt Commits Nearly \$3 Million for Drinking Water Improvements in Northwest Missouri

JEFFERSON CITY- Gov. Matt Blunt today announced he has directed the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to commit approximately \$2.8 million to eight northwest communities for drinking water treatment and distribution improvements. The grant funds are part of the governor's Clean Water Initiative.

"The Clean Water Initiative is designed to help Missouri communities meet their water needs," Gov. Blunt said. "Missourians, our environment and our economy all benefit when communities have an adequate and affordable infrastructure to provide safe drinking water and to help protect Missouri's rivers and lakes."

The Atchison County Wholesale Water Commission, consisting of Atchison County Public Water Supply District #1 and the communities of Craig, Fairfax, Rock Port and Tarkio, will use the grants in combination with other funds to construct a new water treatment facility to produce water on a regional scale, to provide water storage and distribution to deliver safe and adequate water to wholesale customers and to upgrade individual distribution systems to accept water from the regional supplier. This is part of a long-term regional plan involving 12 counties in northwest Missouri.

The cities of Burlington Junction, Clearmont and Hopkins in Nodaway County will use their grant funds for their drinking water projects.

Last June, Gov. Blunt announced that the state would issue \$50 million in bonds to assist Missouri communities facing problems related to drinking water and wastewater treatment. The loans and grants from the Clean Water Initiative will be administered by the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Water Protection Program and are limited to counties, municipalities, and water or sewer districts.

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