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IT'S ALL ABOUT THE WATER!

Long-term relationships are the cornerstone to Larkin Group Inc's success. Starting in early 1999, a group of water systems banded together to establish Public Wholesale Water Supply District 23 with a common goal of developing a water supply system for the future. We are proud of our association with the water district board that has worked diligently, with focus and determination for nine years to plan and fund a regional system to their mutual benefit.. The group hired experienced advisors that have worked together for over 25 years, including on the first two Wholesale Water Districts in Kansas - - Richard L. Hines, Attorney and Larkin Group Engineers. The engineering study's purpose was to evaluate the feasibility of water sources and a treatment facility to serve their systems for the next 40 years. Over the next several years, the group expanded the number of members involved and continued to pursue funding to bring the system to reality.

With many outstanding water projects in the State of Kansas waiting for funding, Kansas elected Officials and Kansas Rural Development staff hit a home-run for the State with the funds made available by the Farm Bill which passed last June in U.S. Congress. Due to their dedication and determination, Kansas received ample funding to take care of a backlog of worth projects.

"I am pleased USDA Rural Development will be making this critical federal investment in several communities across the state, enhancing quality of life for residents and businesses. This is just one example of why I supported the 2008 Farm Bill and worked to ensure funding for programs benefitting rural America in the bill."

- Senator Pat Roberts, State of Kansas

Once funding was secured, and design was finalized, the project bid, and construction contracts were awarded within weeks. Construction began in the fourth-quarter of 2008 and will be complete by late 2009.

The water systems that have contracted as members of PWWS D 23 include the following:

- City of Altoona
- City of Buffalo
- City of Fredonia
- RWD No. 9 Montgomery
- RWD No. 12 Montgomery
- RWD No. 4 Neosho
- RWD No. 6 Neosho
- RWD No. 7 Neosho
- RWD No. 9 Neosho
- RWD No. 12 Neosho
- City of Thayer
- RWD No. 1 Wilson
- RWD No. 2 Wilson
- RWD No. 4 Wilson
- RWD No. 5 Wilson
- RWD No. 7 Wilson
- RWD No. 10 Wilson
- RWD No. 11 Wilson
- RWD No. 13 Wilson
- RWD No. 1 Woodson

The project consists of modifying an existing water treatment plant that utilizes the Fall River as a source. Other construction includes two elevated tanks, a booster pump station, and 100 miles of transmission mains to serve the four cities and sixteen rural water districts that make up Public Wholesale Water Supply District No. 23.

A significant accomplishment that should be noted, Larkin's design produced bids that result in a water rate under the price limit designated in the initial report for the district 7 years ago. The leadership and visionary thinking of our clients, as well as the support and efforts like that of Senator Pat Roberts, has helped move this project toward completion.

Throughout our 60-year history, Larkin has enjoyed working to benefit rural communities. The rewards for this work come through the satisfaction of the citizens. We believe that although it may be a project that few hear about, that makes it of no less value to us. Due to the efforts of the community leaders, over 15,000 people will benefit from a system designed to provide water for current residents and future development. We look for input and allow for people to have a voice in the process in order for complete public involvement when designing a project. The number of services we offer ensures our clients that our areas of expertise are not limited. The services provided to this project include, water source evaluation, water treatment, storage, and distribution design, pumping facility design and many more. Larkin strives to exceed the expectations of every client and will continue to strive for the best in every project and community. . . With Larkin it's all about the water!