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Cabell County Water Project Dedicated *Public-Private Partnership brings water service to nearly 300 people*

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (May 7, 2010) – After years of having to rely on cisterns and wells, which in many cases were unreliable, 119 families in the Lesage area of Cabell County now have treated water service and fire protection.

A water line extension project that began in February of 2009 was dedicated Friday at Oak Hill United Brethren Independent Church. Many of the 119 families, which total about 300 people, came out to help celebrate.

West Virginia American Water President Wayne Morgan spoke at the ceremony, telling the group of about two dozen people that the company is fortunate to have great public partners to help secure funding for projects such as this. To illustrate how much the completion of this extension project means to the residents there, Morgan read aloud a thank you note that new customer Melita Knight wrote to West Virginia American Water.

“I just wanted to say thank you all so very much for helping us all get water,” Knight wrote. “It is a real blessing to me to know I will not run out of water at any time.”

The other speakers at the ceremony, Cabell County commissioners Nancy Cartmill, Scott Bias and Bob Bailey, spoke about the fact that about 95 percent of the county now has access to treated water. All three said they look forward to continuing to work with West Virginia American Water, and with state and federal officials to get that number to 100 percent.

The project involved the installation of nearly 11 miles of pipe and 24 fire hydrants in the following areas: Bryan Road, Jim Mount Road, Clark Hollow Road, Little Cabell Creek, Dog Fork, Ninemile Creek Road/Oak Hill Road. Terradon Corp. was the engineer for the project and Chojnacki Construction was the contractor. The Region II Planning and Development Council helped secure some of the funding.

More than three-quarters of the nearly \$2 million project was funded through a Small Cities Block Grant, which was provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and administered through the state Development Office's Community Development Division. Another big chunk of the funding, nearly \$300,000, was a West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council loan. The rest of the funding was provided by the Cabell County Commission, Salt Rock Public Service District and West Virginia American Water.

West Virginia American Water, a wholly owned subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK) is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water services to approximately 600,000 people. Founded in 1886, American Water is the largest investor-owned U.S. water and wastewater utility company. With headquarters in Voorhees, N.J., the company employs more than 7,000 dedicated professionals who provide drinking water, wastewater and other related services to approximately 16 million people in 35 states and Ontario and Manitoba, Canada. More information can be found by visiting www.amwater.com.

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