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## **Boone County Water Project Dedicated** ***Public-Private Partnership Brings Water to 430 People in Prenter***

**CHARLESTON, W.Va. (May 4, 2010)** – Dozens of new West Virginia American Water customers were on hand Tuesday afternoon to celebrate the completion of a water line extension project serving the Boone County Community of Prenter.

About 70 people attended the outdoor ribbon-cutting ceremony for the \$2.2 million public-private partnership, which supplies treated water service and fire protection to about 175 homes, or approximately 430 people. All but the last 40 homes already have their water turned on. The rest are expected to be in service by the end of the month.

U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall spoke at the ceremony, as did Eddie Belcher of Gov. Joe Manchin's office, state Sen. Ron Stollings, state Delegate Jeff Eldridge, West Virginia American Water President Wayne Morgan and Boone County commissioners Al Halstead, Mickey Brown and Eddie Hendricks.

The final speaker for the event was Prenter Hollow resident Jennifer Massey, who fought hard to bring treated water service to her friends and neighbors, many of whom believe the wells there have been tainted by coal slurry from old underground mines. Class-action lawsuits alleging a higher-than-normal rate of cancer and other illnesses in the community have been filed against area coal companies.

“This is a glorious day,” said Massey. “We’ve had serious health issues in this community. But now we can pick up the pieces and move on, and not have to worry about contamination.”

The bulk of the funding for the public-private partnership project, \$1.5 million, came from 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. The rest of the money for the project was provided by the Boone County Commission and West Virginia American Water.

“We are proud to have been a part of this project,” said West Virginia American Water President Wayne Morgan, “We look forward to continuing to work with county, state and federal officials on other projects to supply the residents of Boone County, and throughout West Virginia, with reliable water service.

Construction of the new water line started last August.

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](http://www.amwater.com).

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