



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Sioux Valley Energy Loans Lake Area Improvement Corporation \$450,000 through REED and REDG Program

Colman, S.D. – Sioux Valley Energy received funding from the USDA REDG program to provide a zero percent interest loan of \$300,000 in addition to a \$150,000 Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) loan for the Lake Area Improvement Corporation (LAIC). The loans assisted with financing the construction of a spec building in the Lakeview Industrial Park in Madison, SD.

According to Julie Gross, Executive Director for the LAIC, the 20,000 square foot building will be used as a marketing tool to attract new businesses to Madison or to provide an option for existing businesses to expand.

Tim McCarthy, Sioux Valley Energy’s General Manager/CEO, says, “Employment and economic development continues to be challenging in today’s economy. That is why the REED fund is so important for small communities and rural areas—we are happy that the loan will help Lake Area Improvement Corporation make these improvements.” Through the REED fund, Sioux Valley Energy is able to provide gap financing to improve community infrastructure, facilities and services as well as help businesses develop or expand. “One of our core principles is Commitment to Community and the REED fund is the perfect example of how we support local economic development,” McCarthy added. The Cooperative is a member owned-utility providing electric service to over 23,000 homes, farms, businesses and industries in a seven-county area of east-central South Dakota and southwest Minnesota.

The REED Fund was organized in 1996 by the member systems of East River Electric Power Cooperative. Initially financed with \$2-million in lending capital, the REED Fund has grown to a total capital of more than \$30-million today. Nearly 85 percent of REED’s lending goes to communities with populations of less than 4,000 people and the majority of the projects have local ownership.

If you are planning to build or expand a new/existing business or if your community needs assistance financing infrastructure or services, contact Betty VanDerWerff at Sioux Valley Energy (800-234-1960).