Bullock Announces Montana Coal Board Grant Recipients

HELENA – Governor Steve Bullock announced that the Montana Coal Board awarded a total of $871,181 in coal impact grants to Musselshell County, the Ashland Fire District, the Town of Broadus, the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, the City of Roundup, and Big Horn County at its March meeting.

“Coal mining has brought jobs and economic activity to many parts of Montana, but it has also brought strains on infrastructure and local services. I’m pleased that we’re able to help these communities manage these impacts, while preserving their quality of life,” Bullock said. “I congratulate the Montana Coal Board and the Department of Commerce for its ongoing efforts to evaluate and award these important grants to our hard working coal communities.”

The Montana Coal Board provides financial grants to help local jurisdictions provide for the expansion of public services or facilities needed as a direct consequence of coal development activities. This can include needs related to development of coal mines or coal-using energy complexes, or that result from a major decline in those activities.

The following applicants were awarded coal impact grant funds for their projects:

- Musselshell County - $375,000 for road improvements
- Ashland Fire District - $47,000 for the preparation of construction documents for the Ashland Fire Hall
- Town of Broadus - $39,000 for a wastewater system preliminary engineering report
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe - $45,000 to purchase a utility truck
- City of Roundup - $227,921 to purchase a pumper fire truck
- Big Horn County - $39,260 to replace the Road Department’s sander and plow
- Musselshell County - $98,000 for ambulance monitors and defibrillators

Eligible applicants for Coal Board grants include local governmental units (cities, towns, counties, school districts, and water and sewer districts), state agencies and federally-recognized Indian tribes.
Since 2009, the Coal Board has funded 126 projects for a total of $15.6 million dollars in school, medical, and community facilities, emergency services equipment and buildings, road repairs and public infrastructure improvements, as well as planning grants for capital improvement plans, housing needs assessments, preliminary architectural and engineering reports, and growth policies.

The Montana Coal Board’s next meeting is in Crow Agency on June 20, 2014. For more information, contact the Coal Board administrative staff at (406) 841-2770 or e-mail DOCCB@mt.gov.

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