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## **EFC Approves \$6.6 Million in Interest-Free Loans and \$2 Million Grant for Improvements, Expansion of Drinking Water Systems in Cayuga County**

The New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) today approved nearly \$6.6 million in no-interest, short-term loans to improve and expand the drinking water systems for the Village of Port Byron and the towns of Mentz and Montezuma. Port Byron will also receive a \$2 million grant from New York's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

The project will repair and prevent the large number of water main breaks that occur each year, improving the quality of the water by reducing disinfection by-products and reducing water loss attributed to leakage and breaks in the system. In addition to creating the Route 31 Water District in the Town of Mentz, the project includes the replacement of eight miles of water main, the construction of a new rechlorination station, and improvements to Montezuma's water storage tank.

The total project will cost \$6.59 million and will be paid with short-term, interest-free loans to the Town of Mentz (\$250,000), the Town of Montezuma (\$1,231,000) and the Village of Port Byron (\$3,112,000), along with a \$2 million grant to Port Byron. The financing comes from New York's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, which is administered by EFC and the New York State Department of Health.

Construction is expected to begin in April and will be completed in May of 2016.

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