

BOB DOLE



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KANSAS PROJECTS INCLUDED IN WATER RESOURCES ACT PASSED BY SENATE

Washington, DC -- Four flood control projects and a reservoir road improvement plan are included in the \$11 billion Water Resources Development Act passed by the Senate today, according to Sen. Bob Dole.

The Kansas projects include the Halstead, upper Little Arkansas River, Brush Creek and Arkansas City flood control projects as well as road construction at Big Hill Reservoir. Total cost of the projects is \$52.4 million, with at least 25-percent of the costs to be paid for by the state and localities affected.

"These projects will go a long way," said Sen. Dole, "toward protecting thousands of Kansas homes and businesses, and thousands of acres of our valuable farm land, from the ravages of flooding. One project will also enable visitors to a popular Kansas recreation site a safe and dependable roadway. These are important projects for our state, and I'm pleased the Senate agreed by passing this legislation."

Senate passage of the legislation was made possible, said Dole, because of a new policy which shifts a larger portion of the construction costs to local communities and charges "user fees" to individuals and businesses that benefit from the projects.

It is estimated the federal share of the legislation's cost would be \$5.9 billion. "No longer will the federal government simply write a blank check to cover all the costs," said Sen. Dole.

The legislation authorizes:

- * Construction near Halstead of a 21,000 foot levee and floodwall along the Little Arkansas River and allows for straightening the river channel, at a cost of \$7.1 million

(more)

- * Deepening of the Brush Creek channel and the replacement of two bridges near Kansas City, at a cost of \$15.8 million
- * Construction of 18 small dams along the upper Little Arkansas River in central Kansas, at a cost of \$12.2 million
- * Raising and extending the Walnut River levees near Arkansas City, at a cost of \$14.3 million
- * Construction of a paved road to the Pearson-Skubitz Bill Hill Reservoir near Cherryvale, at a cost of \$3 million

In addition, the legislation:

- * Permits water from Marion Lake near Marion to be used for irrigation of farm land (present law forbids such use but does allow for industrial and business usage)
- * Authorizes Soil Conservation Service "watershed" projects, with the mandate that 20-percent of the benefits be directed to agriculture
- * Authorizes \$9.5 million for a five-year study of the Ogallala Aquifer.

Before the legislation is sent to the President for his signature, House and Senate conferees will have to work out differences between the Senate bill and legislation passed by the House of Representatives.