

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 28, 1992

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**DOLE SECURES SENATE APPROVAL OF \$400,000 AID
FOR STORM-DAMAGED NCK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE:
FmHA MAKES DISASTER DECLARATION FOR CLOUD, MITCHELL &
7 CONTIGUOUS COUNTIES -- LOW INTEREST LOANS FOR ELIGIBLE FARMERS**

WASHINGTON -- Responding to the destruction caused by hurricane-force winds and heavy rains that hit north central Kansas on July 8, Kansas Senator Bob Dole today secured Senate approval of a special \$400,000 grant earmarked for the NCK Electric Cooperative, which services users throughout north central Kansas. The cooperative experienced significant losses when the storms, classified as an "inland hurricane," knocked out power lines and destroyed approximately 500 electric poles.

The southern one-third of the electric system was destroyed in the storm. Because insurance is unavailable for the type of equipment that was destroyed, ratepayers would be exposed to heavy additional increases in order to pay for the storm damage.

"The people of north central Kansas and the NCK Electric Cooperative need some relief in order to tackle the enormous recovery they have before them," Dole said. "This assistance, if also approved by the House, will provide assistance to the cooperative and allow many victims of the storm to move on to other projects."

The grant was included as part of the 1993 Agriculture Appropriations bill, and must be approved by a House/Senate conference committee in coming weeks.

Disaster Declaration: FmHA meeting at Cloud County Courthouse

Additionally, Dole's office announced that the Farmers Home Administration has declared the following counties as disaster counties for physical loss designation: Cloud, Mitchell and the contiguous counties of Washington, Clay, Ottawa, Lincoln, Osborne, Jewell and Republic. Under such a designation, eligible farmers will have access to low-interest loans to pay for losses and repair damages sustained by the storms. A meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 29, at 1:30 P.M. in the Cloud County Courthouse, where state FmHA officials will be available to explain programs available under the disaster designation and to answer any questions that attendees may have.

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