

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

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TORNADO RADAR

CONGRESS OK'S NEXRAD RADAR FUNDING; SEVERE WEATHER DETECTING SYSTEM FOR DODGE CITY - WICHITA - GOODLAND - TOPEKA

WASHINGTON -- Legislation to fund completion of Kansas installation of the NEXRAD Doppler radar, the high-tech severe weather detection radar, received final Congressional approval today, announced Kansas Senator Bob Dole. Four Kansas cities -- Dodge City, Wichita, Goodland and Topeka -- are slated to receive the high-tech radar as part of the National Weather Service's modernization program.

The funding was included at the request of Senator Dole in the FY1993 Commerce, State & Justice Appropriations bill. The Senate approved the conference report to the funding measure today. The measure now goes to President Bush for his signature.

"I'm pleased that Congress has agreed to continue to fund this state-of-the-art technology," Dole said. "It's vital that Kansans get advanced warning of severe weather. The NEXRAD system will enable forecasters to accurately provide us with early detection information -- an invaluable commodity when it comes to saving lives."

Last year, Senator Dole secured initial funding to begin the process of installing 4 NEXRAD radars in Kansas. Once the NEXRAD program is complete, Kansas will be the first state in the nation to have complete Doppler radar coverage.

The National Weather Service has slated 4 Kansas sites to receive the advanced NEXRAD system. Dodge City had the system installed in December, 1991, where it is currently being tested. It will be permanently operationally in February, 1993.

The National Weather Service approximates the target dates for the systems for Wichita, Goodland, and Topeka as follows:

<u>Wichita</u>	delivered currently testing system permanently installed May, 1993
<u>Goodland</u>	delivered testing to begin in late October, 1992 permanently installed June, 1993
<u>Topeka</u> -	delivery date - April, 1993 testing to begin in June, 1993 permanently installed January, 1994

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