

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. AND SANTA BARBARA, CALIF. -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) Wednesday said Interior Secretary Walter J. Hickel will announce this week that booms are to be placed around wells on offshore federal lands before any oil spill occurs.

Dole, who has been in Santa Barbara with three other members of the Senate subcommittee on air and water pollution, made the announcement through his Washington office. The subcommittee, under action Chairman Senator Joseph Montoya (D-N.M.) completed two days of field hearings Tuesday.

Dole said, "Secretary Hickel will announce he will direct that booms be placed around wells on offshore federal lands, to be in place before, rather than after, any spill occurs. He is also strengthening Department regulations on other control and abatement procedures."

"I am certain that he will take any other necessary steps, as he is determined to correct the Santa Barbara situation, to prevent the repetition of such accidents, and to see that adequate control and cleanup methods are developed and used."

Dole added, "The Secretary has discussed with me, twice today by telephone, especially his deep concern that marine life be protected, and that full attention is directed to the quality of the environment."

"I told Hickel that our subcommittee would cooperate with him in every way," he said.

Dole, who is staying in the Santa Barbara area an extra day or two at the request of the Secretary, said he will be talking with Hickel frequently and that he would discuss the matter fully with him when Dole returns to Washington.

Tuesday Montoya and Dole flew over the oil company drilling platform, viewing the fresh oil slick surrounding platform A and the "bubble". Wednesday, Dole and the committee staff inspected the pollution site from a Coast Guard cutter.