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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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Joe Reppert—Press Secretary

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WASHINGTON, D.C., MAY 2, 1972 -- Senator Bob Dole today sent a telegram to all members of the Federal Power Commission urging them to approve an emergency application from Northern Natural Gas Company to provide natural gas to power engines for irrigation in Southwestern Kansas.

The Kansas Senator said, "Preplant watering should already be underway and crop planting is only a few days away. Farmers in this area need gas to power pumps."

The Federal Power Commission ~~has~~ issued a decision earlier today to hold public hearings on May 23 in Washington to discuss the necessity of Northern Natural Gas Company's proposed construction during 1972 and operation of unspecified gas sales and transportation facilities..

Dole said the May 23 hearings would be "too late." He pointed out that farmers in southwestern Kansas have invested thousands of dollars in irrigation wells that are based on the use of natural gas as fuel and that the use of alternative fuels would be prohibitive.