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CONSTRUCTION SLATED FOR POST ROCK RURAL WATER DISTRICT

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today announced the obligation of \$1.7 million additional funds by the Farmers Home Administration to cover a cost overrun due to the increase in the price of pipeline materials as final papers are being signed by the contractors who were successful bidders for the first construction phase of the Post Rock Rural Water District.

"Now that the request for additional funds has been expedited and approved," said Senator Dole, "I am hopeful that paperwork will be completed by the contractors and actual construction of the treatment facility can begin by the first of July. If the structure is enclosed prior to the winter, we should be able to pump water by this time next year."

First phase plans call for 680 miles of pipeline to provide water service from Kanopolis Reservoir, located in southeast Ellsworth County, to nearly 700 users in a six-county area of central Kansas: Ellsworth, Lincoln, Salina, Ottawa, southeast Russell, and northeast Barton. A second phase is slated to expand service in Russell County and add service to Osborne County and a corner of Ellis County.

The four successful contractors were also low bidders. The treatment plant portion was awarded to the L. R. Foy Construction Company of Hutchinson for \$1,627,088. A contract for \$5,172,917.80 for the distribution system is due to be signed by Eatherly Contractors of Garden City. A pedestal-type reservoir will be provided by Hydrostorage, Inc. of Des Moines, Iowa, for \$213,750. Two standpipe reservoirs will be erected by Gerard Tank and Steel of Concordia at a cost of \$184,756.

"A great deal of credit goes to the Post Rock Board of Directors, chaired by Robert Whitmer of Dorrance, whose members have worked relentlessly to coordinate and finance the project which will serve an eight-county area," said Senator Dole.

The engineering firm of Van Gundy and Associates in Ellsworth is responsible for design and construction.