

Contacts:

Jeffrey A. Orrock, Meteorologist In Charge  
[Jeff.orrock@noaa.gov](mailto:Jeff.orrock@noaa.gov), (757) 899-5730

William Sammler, Warning Coordination Meteorologist  
[William.sammler@noaa.gov](mailto:William.sammler@noaa.gov), (757) 899-4200 ext. 223

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Beginning Monday, March 19, 2018 the KAKQ WSR-88D radar operated by the NOAA National Weather Service in Wakefield, VA will be down for approximately five days for the refurbishment of the transmitter. Although the form, fit, and function of the transmitter will remain the same, old breakers and cables original to the radar will be replaced with modern fuses and new cables. This will help keep the 20-year-old radar operating smoothly for another 20 years. This work is not related to critical repairs made to the radar system earlier this month. Repairs earlier this month were to the primary azimuth "bull" gear which help drives the radar. This repair, along with the drive motor and other components, also served to extend the longevity of the radar system.

This transmitter update is the second major project of the NEXRAD Service Life Extension Program, a series of upgrades and replacements that will keep our nation's radars viable into the 2030's. NOAA National Weather Service, the United States Air Force, and the Federal Aviation Administration are investing \$150 million in the seven year program. The first project was the installation of the new signal processor. The two remaining projects are the refurbishment of the pedestal and equipment shelters. The Service Life Extension Program will complete in 2022.

During the downtime, adjacent radars include: Newport/Morehead City NC, Raleigh NC, Blacksburg VA, Sterling VA, Dover DE and the Andrews AFB TDWR. For direct access to any of these surrounding radar sites, go to the following web page:  
<https://radar.weather.gov/index.htm>

The KAKQ WSR-88D is part of a network of 159 operational radars. The Radar Operations Center in Norman, Oklahoma, provides lifecycle management and support for all WSR-88Ds.

