

National Weather Service Announces Radar Outage for Major Upgrade

Contact:

Steve DiRienzo, Acting Meteorologist-In-Charge
stephen.dirienzo@noaa.gov, (518) 626-7542 or (518) 626-7573

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Beginning November 29, 2021, the KENX WSR-88D operated by NOAA's National Weather Service in Albany, NY will be down for approximately two weeks for important maintenance. Technicians will refurbish and replace the pedestal, one of the most critical components of the radar. The pedestal is necessary for antenna rotation and positioning as it captures data in all directions.

The Radar Operations Center in Norman, Oklahoma, provides lifecycle management and support for all WSR-88D radars. Our pedestal was designed to last 25 years, but has exceeded its life-span as it was installed in 1993. This maintenance is necessary to keep the radar functioning for another 20 years or more. The radar components are extremely heavy and will require the radome to be removed and replaced by a crane. Crane operation is impacted by wind, and winds of 18 MPH or more can delay or prolong scheduled maintenance.

The pedestal refurbishment is the third major project of the NEXRAD Service Life Extension Program, a series of upgrades that will keep our nation's radars viable into the 2030s. NOAA's National Weather Service, the United States Air Force, and the Federal Aviation Administration are investing \$135 million in the eight year program. The first project was the installation of the new signal processor and the second project was the refurbishment of the transmitter. The fourth project will be the refurbishment of the equipment shelters. The Service Life Extension Program will be complete in 2023.

- During the downtime, WSR-88D radars adjacent to KENX will be available, including:
- KTYX – Montague, NY
- KCXX – Burlington, VT
- KBOX – Taunton, MA
- KOKX - Brookhaven, NY
- KBGM – Binghamton, NY

The KENX WSR-88D is part of a network of 159 operational radars. For direct access to any of WSR-88D radar sites, visit the following web page: <https://radar.weather.gov/>

The National Weather Service in Albany, NY can be found on social media @NWSAlbany.