

Scranton NOAA Weather Radio is on the air
(from JP Martin NOAA-NWS Bismarck, ND)

The new NOAA weather radio transmitter at Scranton, Bowman County, North Dakota, is on the air. The call sign is WNG-658 and it is broadcasting on frequency 162.525 MHz (megahertz).

The transmitter is located about 4 miles northeast of Scranton on a tower owned by Consolidated Telcom of Dickinson. Consolidated was the driving force behind getting this new transmitter on line. They obtained a \$54,767 matching grant from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development. Consolidated donated the use of their tower and also funded part of the installation cost. They have provided a potentially lifesaving service to people living in, playing in, or just passing through southwest North Dakota and northwest South Dakota.

The Scranton transmitter will serve parts of Bowman, Slope, Hettinger, and Adams counties in North Dakota and parts of Perkins and Harding counties in South Dakota.

NOAA weather radio is now all hazards. This means that information about non-weather emergency messages, like Amber alerts, chemical spills, and evacuations can be broadcast along with weather related emergency messages. Weather warnings, watches, statements, forecasts, and current conditions will also be broadcast.

The Bismarck office of NOAA's National Weather Service will be responsible for programming and broadcasting. Weather warning information will be included from the Rapid City National Weather Service office which serves northwest South Dakota.

The Scranton transmitter is 1,000 watt output power, equal in power to existing transmitters serving Dickinson, Bismarck, and Williston. Best reception will be within 40 or 50 miles of the transmitter. If your reception is poor try an outdoor antenna.

NOAA weather radio is the voice of your National Weather Service. For information go to www.crh.noaa.gov/bisnwr.php This web site will be updated in the coming days with information added about Scranton.

There will be a recognition and dedication ceremony for this new transmitter but the date and location have not yet been set.

If you have a programmable weather radio SAME (Specific Area Message Encoder) and FIPS (Federal Information Processing Standards) information may be useful...

Adams County ND FIPS code 038001
Bowman County ND FIPS code 038011
Hettinger County ND FIPS code 038041
Slope County ND FIPS code 038087
Harding County SD FIPS code 046063
Perkins County SD FIPS code 046105