



INF 9-5 file
(4-1-87)

To: _____

For release: Upon Receipt

EROS TO RECEIVE NEW ANTENNA

A new antenna to receive data from orbiting meteorological satellites is scheduled to be installed at the EROS Data Center on Friday, April 3, 1987. A 150-foot double boom crane will lift the 10-foot-diameter, one-ton antenna atop the main building. The antenna and pedestal will rise about 17 feet above the building, necessitating a maximum lift of approximately 50 feet.

This antenna is part of a new reception and processing system being installed at the EROS Data Center for Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer (AVHRR) data from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) satellites. The NOAA satellite data will be used in land science applications and will complement Landsat data currently processed at the Center.

While Landsat data arrive at EROS by way of a communications satellite relay, AVHRR data will be transmitted directly from the NOAA 9 and NOAA 10 satellites and will provide daily coverage of the United States, excluding Alaska and Hawaii. This new reception and processing system will ensure that data needed to support Federal earth science research and land management programs are routinely available within 24 hours of satellite overpass. (Landsat provides repetitive coverage on a 16-day cycle, with a 2-30 day delay.)

One of the primary land applications of AVHRR data is for mapping fire fuel types. These maps aid state and Federal land managers in predicting the probability of fires from lightning strikes by providing vegetation fire fuel information. Monitoring vegetation condition and trends over large areas is another widespread use of AVHRR data. A new and exciting application is producing image maps of entire countries and (or) continents.

Each single pass of the satellite over the Western Hemisphere provides coverage of a 1,491-mile-swath from Canada to Mexico. Circling the Earth from 517.6 miles above its surface, the satellite completes 14 orbits each day.

(Note: In case of inclement weather, the installation of the antenna will have to be postponed. If strong winds or rain occur, please call Dennis Hood, 594-6547, for further information about the installation of the antenna.)

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4/1/87

AD-0007