

# KBNA / AM & FM EL PASO

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Kermit Geary  
1266 Riverview Drive  
Walnutport, PA 18008

Dear Kermit,

I am happy to confirm your reception of KBNA 920 El Paso, Texas. KBNA participated in the IRCA test Friday night/Saturday morning from midnight to 12:30 am local (mountain) time on October 12, 1996. KBNA is 1,000w. day 360w. night on 920, where many regional assignments share the channel.

920 AM has been serving the area since 1947. As you observed, the station was originally known as KELP and was a 1,000w. daytimer with a tower at a landfill next to the sewer on Delta Drive in south El Paso, blocks from the US/Mexico border. Gordon Mclendon owned the station from 1954 to 1957, using it as the prototype for easy listening music later heard on KABL 960 in Oakland, CA. It was Mclendon who added the second and third towers to allow night operation at 500 watts in 1954.

The station was called KELP until 1982. A new owner bought 920 AM and another company's 97.5 FM (called KINT) and changed both to KYSR or "Kiss". He went out of business and our company, Tichenor Media System bought the stations and changed them to KDXX (AM) and KBNA (FM). We ran KDXX separately from KBNA until 1987. Since then we've been simulcasting almost 100%. (We have run the odd ball game or talkshow on only 920, but that's all).

The transmitter was moved to a new site further southeast of downtown in 1989. The ~~three~~ tower pattern remains, but the power was lowered to 360 watts to make protections. For the test on Friday Night/Saturday morning, we repeatedly played the call letters in morse code, into the night system. It forces lobes west, north, and south. Here are bumper stickers, a fact sheet about the El Paso area, and day and night coverage patterns.

Thanks for your interest in KBNA.



David Stewart  
Chief Engineer  
KBNA