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## NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TO PROVIDE NEW RIVER FORECAST SERVICES NEAR TIPTONVILLE, TENNESSEE

The National Weather Service (NWS) Forecast Office in Memphis, TN and the NWS Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center (LMRFC) in Slidell, LA will revise the river forecast services provided for the Tiptonville, TN area. Beginning September 17, 2020, the river forecast point for the Tiptonville area will be moved from south of Tiptonville to east of Portageville, MO.

This change is required due to the upcoming removal of the telemetered river gauge at the site south of Tiptonville. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has installed a new gauge approximately 5.2 miles upstream of the current gauge. The NWS and USACE have conducted analyses of data from the two sites, and found that they are in very good agreement. The agencies have loaded the new data into their river monitoring and forecasting systems, and the data will soon be on their websites for public use. The NWS has briefed Lake County officials on the upcoming move.

“The movement of the forecast point from south of Tiptonville to east of Portageville was necessary since the south Tiptonville gauge will be removed,” said Gary Woodall, Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the Memphis NWS Office. “We have to keep providing river services for the Tiptonville area and to our partners in this important stretch of the river. The site east of Portageville will allow us to continue these services well into the future.”

The Memphis forecast office provides all weather services for 55 counties in northern Mississippi, west Tennessee, eastern Arkansas, and the Missouri Bootheel. The office provides hazardous weather services to partners; prepares and disseminates weather forecasts, river and flood forecasts and warnings; issues severe weather watches and warnings to the public; and collects hydro-meteorological data.

The LMRFC prepares river stage forecasts for more than 240 locations along major rivers in the south-central portion of the United States. Covering approximately 220,000 square miles, the center’s area of responsibility includes northwest Tennessee and the Missouri Bootheel. These forecasts are then forwarded to National Weather Service forecast offices throughout its service area for dissemination to the public.

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