NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 60-22
MAY 30, 2012

Information Technology

NATIONAL RADAR TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM

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OPR: W/OPS34 (B. Werwinski) **Certified by:** W/OPS (R. Vogt)
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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes National Directive System (NDS) Policy Directive 60-22 National Radar Telecommunications Program (NRTP) dated November 28, 2007. Changes made are: 1) Telecommunications Operations Center (TOC) was moved from the Office of the Chief Information Office (OCIO) to the Office of Operational Systems (OPS) in 2010.

1. This directive establishes policy for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) Radar Telecommunications Program. Timely radar data is needed by NWS field offices/ National Centers to support forecast and warning responsibilities. This radar data is available from a variety of NWS and government agency radars. The NWS National Radar Network (NRN) includes over 150 interagency NEXRAD (WSR-88D) radars and a small number of other radars (WSR-74C/74S) owned and used by NWS. Some NWS field offices also receive "complementary" data from other radars such as the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) owned Terminal Doppler Weather Radar, which is not part of the NRN. All dedicated and dial access telecommunications circuits which provide NRN data to NWS field offices constitute the National Radar Telecommunications Program.

2. The NWS will provide field offices National Centers with access to NRN sites to support forecast and warning responsibilities.

3. The network of government (NWS, Department of Defense (DOD) and FAA) NEXRAD radar sites (Reference 1) are operated and maintained via inter-agency agreements (Reference 2). Each agency has responsibility for the acquisition and maintenance of their associated telecommunications.

4. This directive establishes the following NWS authorities and responsibilities:

4.1 The Assistant Administrator for Weather Services is responsible for ensuring compliance with interagency agreements concerning the acquisition and use of telecommunications services for NEXRAD data.

4.2 The OPS is responsible for ensuring that telecommunications services operate at a high level of systems effectiveness.

4.3 The OPS Telecommunications Infrastructure Branch (OPS34), is responsible for the acquisition and management of all telecommunications services needed to deliver radar data from NRN sites to NWS field offices. OPS34 coordinates with the Defense Information and Technology Contracting Organization, DOD, and FAA on the interagency NEXRAD telecommunications network. OPS34 is also responsible for assisting sites and the Radar Operations Center (ROC), as needed, in resolving commercial telecommunications circuit disruptions.

4.4 The OPS Operations Branch (OPS41), WSR-88D Hotline at the ROC is responsible for coordinating telecommunications installations and providing real-time (24x7) troubleshooting and restoration support for failures of NEXRAD telecommunications circuits.

4.5 The OPS Telecommunication Gateway Operations Branch (OPS32), Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) Network Control Facility (NCF) is responsible for 24x7 monitoring of the interfaces from AWIPS computer equipment to the NEXRAD telecommunications network and for initiating restorative actions as necessary in coordination with the ROC. The NCF isolates problems between the AWIPS system and the NEXRAD telecommunications network. Responsibility for resolving NEXRAD telecommunications problems resides with the ROC.

4.6 NWS regional and field offices are responsible for reporting trouble of commercial telecommunications outages to the appropriate telecommunications vendor. If not resolved at that level, the problem is escalated to the ROC. When recurring outages cannot be resolved at the local/regional/ROC level, the problem should be escalated to OPS34.

4.7 NWS Electronics System Analysts (ESA) are responsible for maintaining and troubleshooting all NWS owned telecommunications data links (microwave links, dedicated cable, fiber optic communications, etc.).

5. The effectiveness of this policy will be accomplished through daily monitoring and monthly performance reports by the ROC.

6. Policy references and glossary of terms are listed in Attachment 1.

Signed May 16, 2012
Date

John L. Hayes
Assistant Administrator for Weather Services

Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References

1. NEXRAD WSR-88D Site ID Database:
http://www.spc.noaa.gov/publications/edwards/delburro.pdf
2. WSR-88D Interagency MOA; dated September 2001:
http://www.roc.noaa.gov/WSR88D/PublicDocs/NNOW/NNDec2010/11-15.pdf
3. Charter for the NEXRAD Communications Working Group; dated January 11, 1990
4. Memorandum of Agreement National Weather Service and Defense Information Technology Contracting Organization; dated October 21, 1993

Glossary of Terms

AWIPS - Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System
DITCO - Defense Information and Technology Contracting Organization
DOD - Department of Defense
FAA - Federal Aviation Administration
NCF - Network Control Facility (AWIPS)
NEXRAD - Next Generation Weather Radar
NRN - National Radar Network
ROC - Radar Operations Center (NEXRAD)
TDWR – Terminal Doppler Weather Radar
Telco - Telephone Company
WSR-74C - Weather Surveillance Radar - C band
WSR-74S - Weather Surveillance Radar - S band
WSR-88D - Doppler Weather Surveillance Radar (Next Generation Weather Radar -NEXRAD)