

NOUS41 KWBC 112145
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Service Change Notice 20-85
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring, MD
445 PM EDT Fri Sep 11 2020

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPORT
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From: Ben Kyger, Director
 NCEP Central Operations

Subject: Replacement of RIDGE I radar with RIDGE II radar
 Web Page Effective on or about December 8, 2020

The Radar Integrated Display with Geospatial Elements (RIDGE) Radar Version II will operationally replace RIDGE Radar Version I on or about December 8, 2020. In order to allow users to transition to RIDGE II before the discontinuance of RIDGE Version I, there will be a parallel running of both:

RIDGE I: <https://radar.weather.gov> (Operational URL)
RIDGE II: <https://preview-radar.weather.gov/> (Parallel URL)

During the period between September 11 and December 8, the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Central Operations (NCO) will support both RIDGE I and RIDGE II to allow users time to transition to the new services. During the overlap period, RIDGE I will be the primary system for radar data products. Then, on or about December 8, 2020, RIDGE II will replace RIDGE I as the operational system for radar data products on <https://radar.weather.gov>. A final notification regarding the transition to operational status will be sent ahead of the full transition date, on or about November 8, 2020. If there are any changes to this plan, notification will be provided.

RIDGE II will replace the FLASH-enabled RIDGE I with HTML5 and Javascript within a web-based and also mobile-friendly display. This display utilizes Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor (MRMS) datasets on an interactive map containing Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) compliant layers. Along with the included radar products, users would also have the ability to display NWS long- and short-fused Watches, Warnings, and Advisories.

The web map is optimized for small and large screen devices. Users can bookmark a particular perspective of the map view or select and save a particular radar view. As a result, the current individual NWS radar web pages that display specific Weather Surveillance Radar-1988 Doppler (WSR-88D) Radar products will also be discontinued. These web pages (e.g., <https://radar.weather.gov/radar.php?rid=aaa>; where 'aaa' is the 3-letter identifier of the radar) will be discontinued along with RIDGE I.

The geotIF images can be accessed at:

<https://mrmst.ncep.noaa.gov/data/RIDGEII/>.

MRMS is undergoing its own upgrade and this test URL will change to a production URL on its go-live date. Please check this Service Change Notice for the timing of that:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf2/scn20-72mrms_v12aaa.pdf

During the public comment collection period, the following issues were identified and resolved: issues with state overlay toggling capabilities; issues with the appearance of local radar identifiers; radar transparency levels of the NWS Watch/Warning/Advisory (WWA) overlays, and the radar product naming conventions (product descriptions). Additionally, bookmarking based on user selections has been enabled.

An online frequently asked questions and brief tutorial document is available on the web page:

<https://www.weather.gov/media/jetstream/doppler/Radar2Presentation.pdf>

For further details, please see the Product Description Document:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_Opl_RIDGEII_2020.pdf

For any additional comments or questions regarding the information in this notice, please contact:

IDP GIS Support Team
NOAA/NWS/IDP
Silver Spring, MD 20910
idp.gis.support@noaa.gov

For issues regarding the operational support of the RIDGE II application, please contact:

NCO Operations and Monitoring Branch
nco.ops@noaa.gov

NWS Public Information Notices are online at:
<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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