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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 19-70  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
1055 AM EDT Mon Aug 12 2019

To:           Subscribers:  
              -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
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              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From:       Mark B. Miller  
              Director, Surface and Upper Air Division  
              Office of Observations

Subject: Transition of Manual Radiosonde Observations to Automated  
Radiosonde Observations at Kotzebue, AK, on or about August 19, 2019

Effective on or about August 19, 2019, radiosonde observations (RAOB)  
from Kotzebue, AK, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) # 70133,  
Station ID PAOT, will be transitioned from the manually launched Lockheed  
Martin 1680 MHz LMS6 radiosonde to the Vaisala 403 MHz RS41-SGPA  
radiosonde using the Vaisala Autosonde as the launch vehicle.

During the transition period of up to 30 days, dual radiosonde flights  
may be performed until the Vaisala Autosonde System is declared  
operational for the regularly scheduled observations of 00Z and 12Z.

Messages from the Vaisala Autosonde currently do not contain the  
following components: Freezing Level Data (RADAT), High Resolution Binary  
Universal Form for the Representation of meteorological data (BUFR),  
National Center for Environmental Information (NCEI) archive format. A  
software update will be implemented later in 2019 that will produce these  
data.

For additional information on the message requirements, see WMO 306  
Manual on Codes (International Codes):

- Volume I.1 Part A - Alphanumeric Codes
- Volume I.2 Part B - Binary Codes
- Volume II Regional Codes and National Coding Practices (WMO Region IV)

NWS will issue a follow up Service Change Notice when the above stated  
software update is implemented and the Autosonde RAOB products contain  
these components.

If you have questions or feedback, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

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