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Service Change Notice 20-85 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring, MD
200 PM EDT Tue Nov 24 2020

To: Subscribers:
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From: Ben Kyger, Director
 NCEP Central Operations

Subject: Updated: Replacement of RIDGE I radar with RIDGE II
 Radar Web Page Effective on or about December 16, 2020

Updated to adjust the go-live date of the new NWS Radar Webpage from December 8, 2020, to December 16, 2020. This notice serves as a final notification to users that they must be prepared for the new services.

The Radar Integrated Display with Geospatial Elements (RIDGE) Radar Version II will operationally replace RIDGE Radar Version I on December 16, 2020 at 15 UTC, pending Critical Weather Day (CWD) declaration. 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> (Current operational URL)
RIDGE II: <https://preview-radar.weather.gov/> (Parallel URL)

During the period between September 11 and December 16, 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 16, 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. 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 SCN 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.

A second round of public comments identified the following issues that were resolved on 10/9/2020:

- Generated radar base reflectivity gif images and animated gif images as replacements for Ridgel static images
- Added PGUA_BVEL layer configuration to required NEXRAD Level 3 Base Radial Velocity layers
- Updated the bookmarks to recenter on selected local radar
- Added Style Rules for displaying "Air Quality Alerts" and "Tropical Cyclone Statement" hazard products
- Updated radar stations properly show status

It was identified in testing that the precipitation accumulation GeoTIFF and NetCDF files for time frames of 1, 2, 3, 6, and 12 hours contain data whose usefulness has not been determined. Since 12 UTC and day 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, include 3 bands (Band 2: PRISM normals, Band 3: Departure from normal and Band 4: Percent of normal) that are not determined to be useful, the bands within the files may be discontinued at any time in the future.

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_Op1_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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