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Service Change Notice 21-37
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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From: Terrance J. Clark
 Director, WSR-88D Radar Operations Center

Subject: WSR-88D RDA/RPG Build 20.0 Beta Test Scheduled to
 Begin on or around May 25, 2021

The Radar Operations Center will begin the Beta Test phase of Radar Data Acquisition (RDA) / Radar Product Generator (RPG) Build 20.0 on or around May 25, 2021, and continue through approximately July 30, 2021.

Changes affecting external users include improved ZDR bias estimates in light rain, improved radial discontinuities in R(A), and an optimized QPE Rate algorithm.

At (KGJX) Grand Junction, CO, in addition to the lowest elevation angle of -0.2 degrees, KGJX will also test low level angles of 0.0 and +0.2. Only one of the three low level angles (-0.2, 0.0, +0.2) will be available at any given time. The test will continue for approximately one year. During the test period, the KGJX will operate standard Volume Coverage Patterns (VCPs) using a supplemental low elevation angle of -0.2, 0.0, or +0.2 degrees.

Build 20.0 Beta Test sites and tentative start dates are as follows:

KSHV - Shreveport, LA
May 25, 2021

PAHG - Kenai, AK
June 7, 2021

KEVX - Eglin AFB, FL

June 14, 2021

KGJX - Grand Junction, CO

June 21, 2021

KCAE - Columbia, SC

June 28, 2021

Full deployment of Build 20.0 is expected to begin in August or early September 2021.

For questions or comments, please contact:

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