Effective March 29, 2022, beginning with the 1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) run, the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) upgraded the Global Forecast System (GFS) from version 16.1.5 to 16.1.6. GFS v16.1.6 is a minor upgrade to begin assimilating Global Navigation Satellite System radio occultation (GNSS-RO) data from GeoOptics on March 29, 2022. NOAA awarded Delivery Order 4 (DO-4) of its commercial GNSS-RO data purchase to Spire Global and GeoOptics on February 10, 2022. This purchase covers 5500 occultations a day from Spire and 500 occultations a day from GeoOptics, both over a 10 month period with the data flow starting on March 16, 2022. GFSv16.1.5 currently assimilates GNSS-RO data from Spire as part of DO-3. The GFS also previously assimilated data from GeoOptics as part of DO-2. The upgrade for GFSv16.1.6 will turn on the assimilation of GeoOptics data again with no other changes.

For questions regarding these model changes, please contact:

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