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From: Carrie M. Haisley
 Chief, Emergency Services and Multimedia Branch
 Alaska Environmental Science and Service Integration Center

Subject: Changes to 'Alaska Weather' Television Program, Effective July 1, 2023

Effective July 1, 2023, Alaska Public Media (AKPM) will no longer assemble and distribute the daily 'Alaska Weather' television program.

'Alaska Weather' is a 30-minute TV broadcast produced daily through a partnership between the National Weather Service (NWS) and AKPM. The broadcast is available through public TV stations, the Alaska Rural Communication Service, cable and satellite providers, and posted to AKPM's YouTube channel and several NWS websites.

Under this partnership, NWS records program content while AKPM assembles and distributes the TV program throughout Alaska. The program is unique to Alaska and has run continuously since 1976 as a way to inform rural Alaskan residents about daily weather, climate, sea ice, and hydrologic information.

For additional information on 'Alaska Weather' see:

<https://www.weather.gov/afc/tv>

In January, AKPM notified NWS that they plan to discontinue support of 'Alaska Weather' effective July 1, 2023. Recognizing that rural Alaskan residents have traditionally lacked access to commercial TV media and affordable high-speed Internet, and in alignment with the NWS commitment to service equity for those living in historically underserved and vulnerable communities, NWS sought to identify alternative partners with assembly and distribution capability to continue 'Alaska Weather' in its current format. Unfortunately, no alternatives were found.

The NWS will continue to produce graphics and record a modified web-based version of the program. Web access will include posting the video content to the NWS Alaska YouTube channel. In addition, web-based forecast content included in the TV broadcast continues to be available via multiple sources listed here:

<http://weather.gov/media/infoservicechanges/Alaska Weather links.pdf>

For users without access to high-speed Internet service, NOAA Weather Radio will remain available to those who currently have access and statewide Public and Marine forecasts will continue to be available over the phone through the Alaska Weather Information Line at 1-855-937-4977 and weather.gov/arh/awil.

These alternatives to the currently broadcasted 'Alaska Weather' TV program, are meant to provide an immediate short-term replacement for broadcast content. NWS has initiated an extensive stakeholder engagement effort to work with rural and Native Alaskan leadership to better understand their current needs and technical capabilities for accessing critical NWS information. An opportunity for feedback/input will be announced by May 15, 2023 via an NWS Service Change Notice (SCN).

Our engagement efforts and input received will be used to identify any further changes in our services that we are able to provide. An additional SCN will be provided in the fall to alert users of any changes made as a result of comments received. If no suggestions are received, services may remain as provided on July 1.

Please send questions and information requests to:

Carrie M. Haisley
Chief, Emergency Services and Multimedia Branch
Alaska Environmental Science and Service Integration Center
Anchorage, AK
Email: carrie.haisley@noaa.gov

and

Donald (Don) Moore
Director, Alaska Environmental Science and Services Integration Center
Anchorage, AK
Email: donald.moore@noaa.gov

National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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