Service Change Notice 23-61 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1020 AM EDT Thu Jun 15 2023

To:        Subscribers:
- NOAA Weather Wire Service
- Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
- NOAAPort
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From:      Stephen Bieda III, Chief
Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services
Branch

Subject:   Updated: Changes to RIDGE II Enhanced (radar.weather.gov) and
Standard (Low Bandwidth) Images on or about July 25 2023

Updated to change the implementation date to July 25, 2023.

The Radar Integrated Display with Geospatial Elements (RIDGE) Radar
Version II has been producing both low bandwidth images (deemed “Local
Standard Radar”) and the Geographic Information System (GIS)-based
application that displays NWS radar data on https://radar.weather.gov
(known as Enhanced Version) since its operational replacement of RIDGE
Radar Version I in December of 2020. Various planned enhancements have
been made to the webpage and available products since becoming
operational, to improve the end-user experience. On or about July 25, 2023
the next suite of updates to the webpage will be implemented. These
updates focus on improved performance, streamlining the available radar
products, and updating color tables and loop controls.

The primary change will be the removal of selected radar products and a
shift from the utilization of Level II to Level III WSR-88D radar
products. This will not only allow for improved load times on the site,
but also align RIDGE II with its intended purpose - general radar usage,
rather than complex radar interrogation. The list of products being
removed is below:

National Mosaics
- Raw Base Reflectivity
- Raw Composite Reflectivity

WSR-88D
- Dual-Pol Differential Reflectivity
- High Resolution Echo Tops
- Storm Relative Motion
- Digital Storm Total
- Base Velocity (Super Res Base Velocity will remain)
- High Resolution VIL (Vertically Integrated Liquid)

TDWR
- Echo Tops
- VIL
- Composite Reflectivity

Short Range Base Reflectivity will be added to the Terminal Doppler Weather Radar (TDWR) option. In addition to these product changes, the Banner Display will be removed to increase the screen real estate available on mobile devices. Updates to the Duluth (KDLH) and Riverton (KRIW) Standard Radar domains, will also be made.

Updates to the user interface include updated ESRI basemaps, correcting all radar color curves to match those used by the National Weather Service (NWS), adjusting the functionality of loop controls (including adding speed controls to the Enhanced Version of RIDGE II), and verifying the loop intervals on both the Enhanced and Standard Versions.

For complete information about the RIDGE II radar page on radar.weather.gov, including the associated available data products and services, please view Service Change Notice (SCN) 20-85: https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf2/scn20-85ridge2_aab.pdf

A general Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page for the https://radar.weather.gov GIS-based page can be found here: https://www.weather.gov/radarfaq

For comments or questions regarding the information in this notice, please contact:

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For issues regarding outages and the operational support of the RIDGE II application, please contact: nco.ops@noaa.gov

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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