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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 26-54  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
910 AM EDT Thu Jun 11 2026

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From:         Terrance J. Clark  
              Director, WSR-88D Radar Operations Center

Subject: Change to NEXRAD Level II on or about February 15, 2027

Beginning with WSR-88D Build 25.0, Long-Term average Reflectivity (LTR) will be disseminated in the Level 2 data stream. LTR will be provided as a polar grid of reflectivity at 0.5 degrees elevation angle, averaged over a period of up to 30-days. LTR is used by the WSR-88D RPG to identify areas of ground clutter residue, such as wind turbines. In Build 25.0, LTR will be used by the Hydrometeor Classification Algorithm (HCA) to conditionally classify relatively strong clutter residue as ground clutter. Similar to the Model Data Message (MDM), the WSR-88D will disseminate LTR data hourly shortly after the start of each hour. However, LTR data content will change once per day near 00 UTC. Disseminating it hourly will facilitate availability of the LTR data by systems ingesting Level 2 data. The impact of LTR on the throughput of Level 2 data is negligible.

The structure and format of LTR data in the Level 2 data is described in the Build 25 draft Interface Control Document (ICD) for ARCHIVE II/USER (2620010) which is available online at:  
<https://www.roc.noaa.gov/interface-control-documents.php>

Build 25.0 is planned to begin beta testing in February 2027. However, testing at the Radar Operations Center (ROC) has begun and LTR is available in the Level 2 data from the ROC testbed radar (KCRI). In the event of issues, the radar operator can disable LTR data dissemination. Due to the nature of the ROC testing, the LTR from KCRI may not reach the time span of 30-days.

Please direct comments or report impacts from this change to:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:  
<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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