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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 26-57  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
1155 AM EDT Mon Jun 15 2026

To:           Subscribers:  
              -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
              -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
              -NOAAPort  
              Other NWS Partners, Users, and Employees

From:         David Michaud, Director  
              NWS Central Operations

Subject: Upgrade of the Global Ensemble Forecast System (GEFS) to Version  
12.3.20: Effective June 15, 2026

Effective June 15, 2026, beginning with the 1200 Coordinated Universal  
Time (UTC) run, the National Weather Service Central Operations (NCO)  
will implement a bugfix upgrade to the Global Ensemble Forecast System  
(GEFS) to Version 12.3.20.

The following changes will be in this version:

- Mitigate errant negative short-wave radiation values by improving  
precision from three significant digits to six when storing these fields  
in GRIB2 format. This impacts the Downward Short-Wave Radiation Flux at  
the surface (DSWRFsfc), Upward Short-Wave Radiation Flux at the surface  
(USWRFsfc), and Upward Short-Wave Radiation Flux at the top of the  
atmosphere (USWRFtoa) in the Unified Post Processing software.

Product Delivery and Location:

There are no changes to the regular delivery or product timing  
schedules. Job dependencies and resource allocations for individual  
runs remain unchanged and identical to current production.

The impacted file types containing these fields are the GEFS GRIB2  
pgrb2ap5, pgrb2bp5 and pgrb2sp25 output files distributed on the  
NOMADS server. The specific directory structures are available at:

[https://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/gens/prod/gefs.YYYYMMDD/HH  
/atmos/\[pgrb2ap5,pgrb2bp5,pgrb2sp25\]/](https://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/gens/prod/gefs.YYYYMMDD/HH/atmos/[pgrb2ap5,pgrb2bp5,pgrb2sp25]/)

where YYYYMMDD is the date and HH is the forecast cycle (00,06,12,18).

In the event that the implementation date is declared a Critical Weather  
Day (CWD), an Enhanced Caution Event (ECE), or other significant weather  
is occurring or is anticipated to occur, implementation of this change  
will take place at 1200 UTC on the next weekday not declared a CWD and  
when no significant weather is occurring.

NCO encourages users to ensure their decoders are flexible and are able to adequately handle changes in content order, changes in the scaling factor component within the product definition section (PDS) of the Gridded Binary (GRIB) files, and any volume changes which may be forthcoming . These elements may change with future NWS model implementations. NCO will make every attempt to alert users to these changes prior to any implementations.

Please submit comments, questions, or requests pertaining to this upgrade to:

Science POC  
Fanglin Yang  
NWS Modeling and Development  
[fanglin.yang@noaa.gov](mailto:fanglin.yang@noaa.gov)

For questions about the dataflow aspects, please contact:

Margaret Curtis  
NWS Central Operations HPC Dataflow Team Lead  
[ncep.pmb.dataflow@noaa.gov](mailto:ncep.pmb.dataflow@noaa.gov)

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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