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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 26-89
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1250 PM EDT Fri Oct 2 2026

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

From: David Michaud, Director
 NCEP Central Operations

Subject: Model changes related to RRFS implementation and
NAM/SREF/HiresW/HREF decommissioning: Effective Nov 3, 2026

Effective Tuesday, November 3, 2026, beginning with the 1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) run, NWS Central Operations (NCO) will implement changes to downstream modeling applications resulting from the Rapid Refresh Forecast System (RRFS) model ([SCN 26-48](#)) and the termination of the NAM, SREF, HiresW, HREF ([SCN 26-47](#)). 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.

These updates incorporate high-resolution RRFS model data into the respective downstream workflows to improve forecast skill and guidance consistency across NWS products, and remove products driven by models which are being decommissioned.

National Blend of Models (NBM):

The NWS's Office of Modeling and Development (OMD) will be replacing the NBM model inputs of the North American Mesoscale (NAM) Forecast System (12km and 3km), HiResWindow ARW NCEP (High-Resolution Window Forecast) Model (HIRESW), HIRESW ARW2 NCEP Model, and High-Resolution Window (HRW) Finite-Volume Cubed-Sphere (FV3) NCEP model with the Rapid Refresh Forecast System (RRFS) and all RRFS-based ensemble configurations of the Rapid Ensemble Forecast System (REFS).

With the sunset of the NAM and HiResWindow models, the NBM will begin leveraging the High Resolution RRFS and REFS models instead. Both the Core and Quantile Mapped (QM) NBM Systems will utilize these new models in the same manner as their HIRESW counterparts did. Those expert model weights previously assigned to the NAM and HIRESW models have been modified and reassigned to the RRFS and REFS models in both the NBM Core and QMD Systems. This update affects NBM Guidance over the Contiguous United States (CO), Alaska (AK), Hawaii (HI), Puerto Rico (PR) National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) domains.

The NWS's Office of Modeling and Development (OMD) will be discontinuing products within the NBM in association with [SCN26-47](#). This includes products contained within

<https://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/blend/prod/blend.YYYYmmDD/CC/core/blend.tCCz.core.fHHH.co.grib2>

with the following index:

DRYTPROB:surface:HH-HH hour acc fcst:prob >0:prob fcst
0/21:probability forecast

Additionally, the following header will be discontinued from use over SBN/NOAAPORT: YYA*** KWEI

ObsProc:

Observation dumps for the NAM will be discontinued in association with [SCN26-47](#). This includes all files within the directory listed below.

<https://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/obsproc/prod/nam.YYYYmmDD>

MAG website: <http://mag.ncep.noaa.gov>

The following changes to the Model Analysis and Guidance website will be implemented as a result of [SCN26-47](#):

Replace NAM-HIRES model with the Rapid Refresh Forecast System (RRFS) model, the NAM-FireWx with the RRFS-FireWx model, storm-tracks based on the NAM model with storm-tracks based on the RRFS model, and the HREF model with the Rapid Ensemble Forecast System (REFS).

Remove the following models:

NAM

SREF (including storm tracks)

HRW-ARW

HRW-ARW2

HRW-FV3

NAM-SND.

NCEP 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 NCEP model implementations. NCEP 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:

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For questions about the dataflow aspects, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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