

NOUS41 KWBC 131835  
PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
140 PM EST FRI FEB 13 2004

TO FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS...NOAA WEATHER  
WIRE SERVICE /NWWS/ SUBSCRIBERS...EMERGENCY MANAGERS  
WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/ SUBSCRIBERS...  
NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS...OTHER NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
/NWS/ CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERS...AND NWS EMPLOYEES

FROM ROBERT MCLEOD  
CHIEF... AWARENESS BRANCH  
NWS OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES

SUBJECT VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ UPDATE 2/13/04

THIS MESSAGE IS PART OF A SERIES OF UPDATE MESSAGES TO INFORM NWS  
PARTNERS AND CUSTOMERS OF NEW INFORMATION REGARDING THE VALID  
TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ PLANNING... TESTING AND IMPLEMENTATION.  
VTEC INFORMATION IS POSTED ON THE NWS WEB SITE AT /USE LOWER  
CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/VTEC/](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/vtec/)

THE VTEC WEB SITE HAS BEEN REVISED AND UPDATED TO NOW INCLUDE THE  
JANUARY 30 2004 DRAFT OF THE NWS INSTRUCTION /NWSI/ 10-1703 FOR  
VTEC AND A SHORT LIST OF MILESTONES LEADING UP TO THE SCHEDULED  
DECEMBER 1 2004 IMPLEMENTATION OF VTEC IN NWS PRODUCTS PRODUCED  
AT WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES. A VTEC OPERATIONAL TEST AND  
EVALUATION /OTE/ IS SCHEDULED DURING JULY AND AUGUST 2004 WITH  
OPPORTUNITY FOR NWS PARTNER AND CUSTOMER PARTICIPATION.

FUTURE UPDATES TO THE VTEC WEB SITE WILL INCLUDE THE VTEC OTE  
PLAN... TEXT VERSIONS OF SAMPLE PRODUCT ISSUANCES WITH VTEC  
STRINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS OF THE VTEC STRINGS.

BACKGROUND... IMPLEMENTATION OF VTEC WAS DELAYED UNTIL DECEMBER  
2004 AFTER CONSULTATION IN AUGUST 2003 WITH THE NWS PARTNERS  
WORKING WITH US ON VTEC IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES. A CONSENSUS WAS  
REACHED THAT TOO MUCH RISK EXISTED WITH A DECEMBER 2003  
IMPLEMENTATION. VTEC WILL ENABLE WEATHER PROVIDERS AND VENDORS  
TO AUTOMATE AND TAILOR THE PRODUCT STREAM DELIVERED TO THEIR  
CLIENTS AND ALLOWS CUSTOMERS TO SELECT THE SPECIFIC MESSAGE TYPES  
THEY WANT TO RECEIVE. VTEC WILL HELP IMPROVE AUTOMATED  
DISSEMINATION OF WEATHER INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH A  
MYRIAD OF METHODS... SUCH AS PAGING SYSTEMS AND TELEVISION  
MESSAGE CRAWL SYSTEMS USED TO RELAY URGENT SEVERE WEATHER AND  
FLASH FLOOD INFORMATION. MOST EVENT-DRIVEN PRODUCTS THAT INCLUDE  
THE UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHIC CODE /UGC/ WILL INCLUDE THE VTEC.

WE WILL USE COMMENTS RECEIVED BY EMAIL IN VTEC DEVELOPMENT...  
TESTING... AND IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING AND EXECUTION. TO COMMENT  
ON VTEC... PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL TO NWS.VTEC@NOAA.GOV /USE LOWER  
CASE/.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR SERVICES AND PLANNING EFFORTS.

THE NEXT VTEC UPDATE MESSAGE IS PLANNED NEAR THE END OF MARCH  
2004.

END  
NNNN