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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...
PARTNERS AND 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.

NATIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

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