

NOUS41 KWBC 201412
PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
1030 AM EDT FRI AUG 20 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: DEIRDRE R. JONES
CHIEF...SYSTEMS ENGINEERING CENTER
NWS OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT: VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ AND WATCH BY COUNTY /WBC/
OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION /OTE/

REFERENCE: SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 04-40 TRANSMITTED JULY 1 2004
SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 04-45 TRANSMITTED AUGUST 2 2004
SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 04-51 TRANSMITTED AUGUST 18 2004

A COMBINED VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ AND WATCH BY COUNTY /WBC/
OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION /OTE/ IS SCHEDULED TO RUN FROM
AUGUST 30 2004 TO OCTOBER 15 2004. TO HELP ENSURE SUFFICIENT TEST
DATA... THE OTE WILL RUN ONE WEEK LONGER INTO OCTOBER THAN
PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED. IN PREPARATION FOR THE OTE...ON AUGUST 26
2004...THE OFFICES PARTICIPATING IN THE OTE WILL TURN ON VTEC.

THIS MEANS OPERATIONAL AND TEST PRODUCTS CONTAINING EXPERIMENTAL
VTEC STRINGS WILL BE ISSUED BY SELECTED NWS WEATHER FORECAST
OFFICES /WFO/ AND THE STORM PREDICTION CENTER /SPC/ STARTING
AUGUST 26 2004. IN ADDITION... ALL OFFICES PARTICIPATING IN THE
VTEC OTE WILL BEGIN USING A SEGMENTED FORMAT FOR FLOOD
WATCHES /FFA/...FLOOD WARNINGS /FLW/ AND FLOOD STATEMENTS /FLS/
/THIS INCLUDES FLOOD ADVISORIES/. NOTE THAT FLASH FLOOD WARNINGS
/FFW/ AND FOLLOWUP STATEMENTS /FFS/ WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED /NON-
SEGMENTED/ THROUGH THE OTE.

NWS OFFICES LISTED IN TABLE 1 ARE SCHEDULED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
VTEC OTE... AND THOSE LISTED IN TABLE 2 ARE SCHEDULED TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE WBC OTE.

THE PURPOSE OF THE OTE IS TO DETERMINE THE OPERATIONS
EFFECTIVENESS AND SUITABILITY OF SYSTEMS UNDER REALISTIC
CONDITIONS AND TO DETERMINE IF SPECIFIED MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE
OPERATION PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN SATISFIED. THE VTEC-
WBC OTE ALSO GIVES NWS CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO
CHECK SOFTWARE DECODING AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS BEFORE VTEC
OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION.

THE OTE OF VTEC FUNCTIONALITY WILL DEMONSTRATE AND VALIDATE THE NWS READINESS TO RELEASE OPERATIONAL MESSAGES WITH THE VTEC STRING IMPLEMENTED. THE OTE OF WBC FUNCTIONALITY WILL DEMONSTRATE AND VALIDATE THE NWS READINESS TO RELEASE THE WBC SUITE OF OPERATIONAL PRODUCTS.

THE VTEC-WBC OTE IS DESCRIBED IN FURTHER DETAIL IN THE VTEC-WBC OTE TEST PLAN... INCLUDING TEST OBJECTIVES... ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS... AND TEST CONDUCT AND ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES. THE VTEC-WBC OTE TEST PLAN HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE VTEC WEB SITE /URL GIVEN NEAR THE END OF THIS MESSAGE/.

TABLE 1. LIST OF VTEC OTE OFFICES

NWS ALASKA REGION HQTRS AK

/WILL ONLY ISSUE TEST PRODUCTS AND USE WFO ANCHORAGE COMMS ID/
WFO FLAGSTAFF AZ
WFO PHOENIX AZ
WFO SAN DIEGO CA
WFO JACKSONVILLE FL
WFO MELBOURNE FL
WFO TALLAHASSEE FL

WFO TAMPA FL

NWS PACIFIC REGION HQTRS HI

/WILL ONLY ISSUE TEST PRODUCTS AND USE WFO HONOLULU COMMS ID/
WFO DES MOINES IA
WFO BOISE ID
WFO DETROIT MI
WFO PHILADELPHIA/MOUNT HOLLY NJ
WFO LAS VEGAS NV
WFO CHARLESTON SC
WFO CHEYENNE WY
WFO RIVERTON WY

TABLE 2. LIST OF WBC OTE OFFICES

WFO BOISE ID
WFO WICHITA KS
WFO LAKE CHARLES LA
WFO KANSAS CITY/PLEASANT HILL MO
WFO ST LOUIS MO
WFO SPRINGFIELD MO
WFO BILLINGS MT
WFO GLASGOW MT
WFO GREAT FALLS MT
WFO NEWPORT/MOREHEAD CITY NC
WFO RALEIGH NC
WFO WILMINGTON NC
WFO NORMAN OK
SPC NORMAN OK
WFO CHARLESTON SC
WFO COLUMBIA SC
WFO FORT WORTH TX
WFO HOUSTON TX

AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE OTE... THERE WILL BE A JOINT NWS/NWS PARTNER ASSESSMENT OF VTEC. A PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT WITH THE FINAL IMPLEMENTATION DECISION FOR VTEC WILL BE ISSUED BY NOVEMBER 9 2004.

VTEC IS DESCRIBED IN FURTHER DETAIL IN NWS INSTRUCTION 10-1703 AVAILABLE ON THE NWS DIRECTIVES WEB SITE AND THROUGH A LINK ON THE VTEC WEB SITE. MORE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON VTEC AND WBC CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT THESE WEB SITES /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OS/VTEC](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/vtec)
[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OS/WATCH/](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/watch/)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON VTEC-WBC OTE OR THE NWS IMPLEMENTATION OF VTEC... PLEASE CONTACT:

DEIRDRE JONES...CHIEF HERB WHITE
NWS SYSTEMS ENGINEERING OR DISSEMINATION SERVICES
 CENTER MANAGER
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND SILVER SPRING MARYLAND
PHONE: 301-713-0629 EXT. 105 301-713-0090 EXT. 146
E-MAIL: DEIRDRE.R.JONES@NOAA.GOV HERBERT.WHITE@NOAA.GOV

IF YOU HAVE WBC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS...PLEASE CONTACT:

RICHARD OKULSKI
NWS SEVERE WEATHER PROGRAM LEADER
SILVER SPRING MD
PHONE: 301-713-1867 EXT. 114
E-MAIL: RICHARD.OKULSKI@NOAA.GOV

THIS AND OTHER VTEC UPDATE NOTICES ARE POSTED ON THE VTEC WEB PAGE SHOWN ABOVE.

\$\$
NNNN