

NOUS41 KWBC 061212

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...COMMENTS REQUESTED  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
812 AM EDT WED MAY 6 2009

TO: SUBSCRIBERS:  
-FAMILY OF SERVICES  
-NOAAPORT  
-EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK  
OTHER NWS PARTNERS...USERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: ROBERT BUNGE  
INTERNET DISSEMINATION OFFICER  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

SUBJECT: COMMENTS REQUESTED BY OCTOBER 31 2009 ON  
EXPERIMENTAL SERVICE ALLOWING NDFD USERS TO  
IDENTIFY UPDATED NATIONAL DIGITAL FORECAST  
DATABASE /NDFD/ GRIDS

EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY MAY 1 2009...AT APPROXIMATELY 1500  
COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/...NWS WILL ESTABLISH AN  
INTERNET SERVICE THAT ALLOWS GENERAL REGULARLY-DISTRIBUTED  
INFORMATION IN BINARY FORM /GRIB2/ DOWNLOAD USERS TO DETERMINE  
WHICH FILES HAVE BEEN RECENTLY UPDATED. THE RECENTLY UPDATED  
GRIDS SERVICE /RUGS/ CAN BE USED TO AVOID DOWNLOADING NDFD  
FILES THAT HAVE NOT BEEN MODIFIED.

RUGS IS A WEB SERVICE BASED ON THE ATOM SYNDICATION FORMAT.  
SERVICE USERS SUBMIT AN HTTP REQUEST TO THE SERVICE CONSISTING  
OF THE FOLLOWING INPUTS:

LOCATIONTYPE: USERS INDICATE WHAT TYPE OF LOCATION INPUT  
THEY WILL PROVIDE. SUPPORTED LOCATION  
TYPES INCLUDE WFO IDENTIFIER, NDFD SECTOR  
NAME, STATE ABBREVIATION, OR GRID POINT.

LOCATION: LIST OF LOCATION VALUES APPROPRIATE FOR  
THE LOCATION TYPE.

ELEMENT: LIST OF NDFD ELEMENT IDENTIFIERS.

ISSUANCESEARCHTIME: TIME TO START SEARCHING FOR UPDATED FILES.

SEARCHSTARTTIME: TIME TO START SEARCHING FOR UPDATED VALID  
TIMES WITHIN AN UPDATED FILE.

SEARCHENDTIME: TIME TO STOP SEARCHING FOR UPDATED VALID  
TIMES WITHIN AN UPDATED FILE.

SHOWCHANGEDTIMES: REQUESTS VALID TIMES THAT CHANGED IN AN  
UPDATED FILE.

RUGS RETURNS AN ATOM DOCUMENT CONTAINING URLS TO UPDATED  
GRIB2 FILES AS CONSTRAINED BY USER INPUT. USERS CAN THEN  
DOWNLOAD THE FILES BY ACCESSING THE URL.

USERS CAN PROVIDE FEEDBACK ABOUT THE EXPERIMENTAL RUGS SERVICE AT

THE FOLLOWING WEB ADDRESS. /USE LOWERCASE EXCEPT FOR RUGS/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/SURVEY/NWS-SURVEY.PHP?CODE=RUGS](http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=rugs)

A 6-MONTH PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD WILL BEGIN ON THE DATE OF ACTIVATION AND END ON OCTOBER 31 2009.

MORE DETAILS REGARDING RUGS WILL BE PROVIDED IN A SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT WHICH WILL BE ADDED TO THE ONLINE CATALOG OF NWS PRODUCTS AND SERVICES BEFORE THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE. REFER TO /USE LOWERCASE/:

[HTTPS://PRODUCTS.WEATHER.GOV/VIEWLISTE.PHP](https://products.weather.gov/viewliste.php)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING RUGS IS AVAILABLE ON THE SERVICE HOME PAGE /USE LOWERCASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/FORECASTS/XML/RUGS](http://www.weather.gov/forecasts/xml/rugs)

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS SERVICE...PLEASE CONTACT:

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IF YOU HAVE TECHNICAL QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NDFD DATA... PLEASE CONTACT:

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NATIONAL TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWERCASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/NOTIF.HTM](http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm)

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