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Public Information Notice
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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From: Kevin Schrab
 Chief, Observing Services Division

Subject: Soliciting Comments until April 27, 2015, on a
 NESDIS Proposal to Retire the SPENES Bulletin

The National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Distribution Service (NESDIS) is accepting comments through April 27, 2015, on a proposal to retire the Satellite Precipitation Guidance Message Product (TXUS20 KNES / SPENES).

NESDIS is considering discontinuing the SPENES product and significantly reducing the frequency of precipitation coordination through 12Planet and NWSChat. If this change occurs, then NESDIS Satellite Analysis Branch (SAB) analysts will brief satellite-based information to National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Weather Prediction Center (WPC) forecasters, who in turn are expected to incorporate this information into the Mesoscale Precipitation Discussions (MPD - AWUS01 KWNH / FFGMPD)

SPENES would be partially replaced by the WPC MPD, which provides a single source of centralized guidance on flash flood threats to assure consistent message delivery. As part of the National Precipitation Prediction Unit, SAB has provided satellite support for the last 30 years to the NCEP WPC for Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts and for the more recent MPDs. SAB would continue satellite support to WPC. Satellite-based information from SAB will be integrated by WPC's forecasters into MPDs.

If SPENES is retired:

- Centralized heavy precipitation guidance to WFO Honolulu, HI, and WFO San Juan, PR, would be limited to products from WPC.

- Stand-alone satellite-based guidance for weather systems approaching the West Coast of the CONUS would no longer be provided. Other observational and model-based information from WPC and other sources would remain available.

- Stand-alone satellite based guidance addressing winter storm development or satellite-derived snow rates would no longer be available. The SPC Mesoscale Convective Discussion (MCD) would address such events from an integrated observational and model-based approach.

- SAB would no longer provide directly to the WFOs (except as possible NWSChats) guidance about the early satellite signals of developing marginal heavy precipitation threats which have the potential of evolving into a more serious threat. SAB would provide this information to WPC MPD forecasters instead.

- SAB would no longer routinely provide stand-alone satellite-based guidance for heavy rainfall events that are more of a long-duration threat (i.e., more of a flood threat than a flash flood threat). Partners and users are encouraged to reference WPC rainfall forecasts and other existing NWS products.

Please submit questions or comments by April 27, 2015, to:

John Simko
Satellite Precipitation Program Team Lead
NOAA/NESDIS Satellite Analysis Branch
john.simko@noaa.gov
301-683-1400

Once all comments are received and evaluated, NESDIS will make a decision whether or not to retire the SPENDES product. A decision to retire the product would be announced in a future Service Change Notice.

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<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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