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PNSWSH

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-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
-NOAAPORT
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From: Geoffrey Dimego
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NCEP/Environmental Modeling Center

Subject: Soliciting public comments on the removal of North
American Model (NAM) products through November 9, 2016

The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) is proposing to stop producing some products from the NAM and DGEX; and to stop disseminating them via NOAAPORT and the NCEP/NWS servers. The NWS is seeking comments on these proposed changes through November 9, 2016.

Today output from the NAM is made available from grids ranging in resolution from 2.5 km up to 190 km. Many of the legacy low-resolution grids are available for limited forecast hours and fields. The same information is provided on expanded grids with finer-resolution and more variables. Removing these legacy products is crucial to free up compute and network resources for newer products to be distributed. NCEP is proposing to do the following, see below for a more detailed list:

- Remove select NAM and DGEX gridded output products from NOAAPORT
- Remove NAM WMO fax charts
- Remove select NAM files from NWS and NCEP servers
- Modify NAM archive period on NCEP server

The NWS is currently undergoing an analysis of the SBN/NOAAPORT to determine the optimal set of products to meet the needs of our forecasters. To make room for increased spatial and temporal resolution output, NCEP needs to remove legacy lower resolution products. This analysis is being done with every major NCEP model upgrade. With the next NAM upgrade, currently slated for late December or early January, NCEP proposes the changes listed below.

1) NOAAPORT gridded NAM products for proposed removal:

Grid	Res	FHs	Area	Map Projection
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#218	12 km	00-84	CONUS ICWF*	Lambert Conformal
#242	11.25 km	00-84	Alaska ICWF*	Quad Res Polar Stereographic
#207	95 km	00-60	Reg Alaska	Polar Stereographic
#215	20 km	00-60	Reg CONUS	Quad Res. (Lambert Conformal)
#211	80 km	00-60	Reg CONUS	Lambert Conformal
#217	22 km	00-60	Alaska	Polar Stereographic
#197	5 km	00-60	CONUS NDFD	Lambert Conformal
#198	6 km	00-60	Alaska NDFD	Polar Stereographic

*the ICWF products were a limited subset of variables. Not all grid 218 products are slated for removal.

NCEP will evaluate the need for these grids within the NWS and will reserve the right to remove them once AWIPS computer system is ready. Notification will be sent of the exact date of removal.

Users can access the full complement of NAM surface and upper-level fields on grids #218 (12 km CONUS) and #242 (11.25 km Alaska) in place of the lower-resolution grids listed above.

WMO headers for these grids slated for removal are listed at:

http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/changes/nam_AWIPS_grids.shtml

2) NOAAPORT gridded DGEX products for proposed removal:

Grid	Res	FHs	Area	Map Projection
#185	12 km	84-192	CONUS Limited ICWF	Lambert Conformal
#186	12 km	84-192	Alaska ICWF	Polar Stereographic

These ICWF grids contain a limited amount of near-surface data fields, most of which are not available in the full DGEX grids on NOAAPORT

WMO headers for these grids slated for removal are listed at:

http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/changes/nam_AWIPS_grids.shtml

3) NAM 00z and 12z cycle WMO Headed fax charts for proposed removal:

Description	WMO Header
00 Hour 200MB Isobar/Temp	QHUA17 KWBC
00 Hour 500MB Isobar/Temp	QHTA11 KWBC
00 Hour 700MB Isobar/Temp	QHTA07 KWBC
00 Hour 850MB Isobar/Temp	QHUA04 KWBC
Analysis 300MB Isobar	QHUA15 KWBC

Legacy FAX charts are redundant given the availability of NAM graphics on the NCEP Model Analysis and Guidance web page at

<http://mag.ncep.noaa.gov/model-guidance-model-area.php#>

4) GRIB files that will no longer be provided from the NWS servers

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov>
www.tgftp.nws.noaa.gov

These products will be removed from the following, with an exact or replacement product available from the NCEP servers via http, ftp or grib filter:

```
/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/MT.nam_CY.CC/RD.YYYMMDD/PT.grid_DF.gr2/  
fh.00FF_tl.press_gr.awp218  
fh.00FF_pa.sw10m_tl.press_gr.awip12  
fh.00FF_tl.press_gr.awip20  
fh.00FF_tl.press_gr.awip3d  
fh.00FF_tl.press_gr.awp211
```

All files in this directory are being removed:

```
/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/MT.nam_CY.CC/RD.YYYYMMDD/PT.grid_DF.bb/
```

Where CC is 00, 06, 12, 18

Where YYYYMMDD is Year, Month, Day

Where FF is forecast hour from 00-48 or 60

5) GRIB2 files on the NCEP web servers for proposed removal

<http://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/nam/prod>
<ftp://ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/nam/prod>
www.ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/data/nccf/com/nam/prod

- nam.tCCz.awip218tiles_fff.grib2.tar.gz
- nam.tCCz.awip32tiles_fff.grib2.tar.gz
- tiles.tCCz directory
- nam.tCCz.awip12FF.tm00.10m.uv.grib2
- nam.tCCz.smartakFF.tm00.grib2
- nam.tCCz.smartconusFF.tm00.grib2

where CC is cycle 00, 06, 12, 18

where YYYYMMDD is Year, Month, Day

where FF is forecast hour from 00-84

The tiles are created from the NAM GRIB1 post-processing, which is being turned off since NAM post-processing will now be done in GRIB2 from which tiles cannot be generated. Users desiring subsets of NAM output grids can obtain them via the GRIB filter utility on the NCEP NOMADS server:

<http://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov> (click on grib filter option)

6) The current archive of NAM daily directories on the NCEP http and ftp servers is 30 days. We are proposing to limit the archive to 5 days. This will allow for a better use of disk space and balance supporting user needs.

<http://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/nam/prod/nam.YYYYM MDD>

<ftp://ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/nam/prod/nam.YYYMMDD>
www.ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/data/nccf/com/nam/prod/nam.YYYMMDD

The NWS will evaluate all comments to determine whether to proceed with these changes. If approved, NWS will send a Technical Implementation Notice giving the implementation date.

Send comments on this proposal to:

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NWS National Public Information Statements are online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notif.htm>

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