

NOUS41 KWBC 191455 AAA
PNSWSH

Public Information Statement 16-34 Amended
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
1055 AM EDT Wed Oct 19 2016

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPORT
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Geoffrey Dimego
 Chief, Mesoscale Modeling Branch
 NCEP/Environmental Modeling Center

Subject: Amended: Soliciting public comments on the removal of
 North American Model (NAM) and Downscaled GFS by NAM
 Extension (DGEX) products through November 11, 2016

Amended to include the removal of the DGEX output, include more
clear changes to the NAM12 and extend the comment period.

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 11, 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 to
distribute newer products. NCEP is proposing to do the
following:

- 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
- Remove all DGEX output

The NWS is currently analyzing SBN/NOAAPORT to determine the
optimal set of products to meet the needs of its forecasters. To
make room for increased spatial and temporal resolution output
we need 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
#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. The following will be the only NAM12 variables removed:

TMAX:2 m above ground
 TMIN:2 m above ground
 WIND:10 m above ground
 WDIR:10 m above ground
 POP:surface
 DPT:2 m above ground
 TSTM:surface
 CPOFP:surface
 CPOZP:surface

NCEP will evaluate the need for these grids within the NWS and will reserve the right to remove them once AWIPS 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 Limited ICWF	Polar Stereographic
#185	12 km	84-192	CONUS	Lambert Conformal
#186	12 km	84-192	Alaska	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.swl0m_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 from:

```
/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. NWS is 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/>
<ftp://ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/nam/prod/nam.YYYYMMDD>
www.ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/data/nccf/com/nam/prod/nam.YYYYMMDD

The NWS will evaluate all comments to determine whether to proceed with these changes. If approved, a Technical Implementation Notice will be issued giving 30 days notice of the implementation date.

7. The 12 km resolution Downscaled GFS by NAM Extension (DGEX) run was started in 2004 to provide high-resolution guidance to the field to 192 hour. Since the GFS now runs at a comparable resolution to the DGEX and for a longer forecast range, the DGEX is no longer necessary and the resources used to maintain, run, and distribute it can be better used for more advanced modeling systems and products. All NOAAPORT listed above and site products listed below would be impacted:

<http://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/dgex/>
<ftp://ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/dgex/>
<http://ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/data/nccf/com/dgex/>

Send comments on this proposal to:

Carissa Klemmer
NWS/NCEP Central Operations
Dataflow Team Lead
College Park, MD
carissa.l.klemmer@noaa.gov

NWS National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

NNNN