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From:    Ben Kyger
Director, NCEP Central Operations

Subject: Soliciting Comments on Changes to the NWS Forecast web site at forecast.weather.gov through November 15, 2016,

The National Centers for Environmental Prediction Central Operations (NCO) is soliciting comments on changes to the Point Forecast application at: http://forecast.weather.gov

The purpose of these changes is to create a more usable interface with no duplication of service to users while providing a more modern service-oriented data structure.

The proposal to update the Point Forecast application will alter/deprecate a significant number of Uniform Resource Locators (URLs). Although in many cases the functionality is the same, the structure of the new site requires modifications to the URL. Users will be automatically redirected where possible to ease this transition for public customers; however, partners running automated processes to get NWS data from forecast.weather.gov will need to make sure that either their application properly follows these redirects or points directly to the new URL. The following pages and their new equivalent pages are below:

The following URLs and their equivalent pages are below:

forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php
is replaced by
forecast.weather.gov/point/

forecast.weather.gov/obslocal.php
is replaced by
forecast.weather.gov/zone/<zone-id>/obs#

w1.weather.gov/data/obhistory/XXX.html
is replaced by
forecast.weather.gov/obs/<siteid>/history
wl1.weather.gov/data/obhistory/XXX.html is replaced by
forecast.weather.gov/zone/<zoneid>/history

wl1.weather.gov/glossary/index.php is replaced by
forecast.weather.gov/glossary

forecast.weather.gov/product.php
is replaced by
forecast.weather.gov/products/<type>/siteId/<page>

forecast.weather.gov/product_types.php
is replaced by
forecast.weather.gov/products

wl1.weather.gov/xml/current_obs/seek.php
is replaced by
forecast.weather.gov/obs/

wl1.weather.gov/xml/current_obs/display.php
forecast.weather.gov/obs/<siteid>

forecast.weather.gov/netcdfheader.php
is moved to an internal URL

forecast.weather.gov/gfestatus
is moved to an internal URL

forecast.weather.gov/gfestatuslite.php
is moved to an internal URL.

The following pages will be deprecated with this update and will no longer be available:

/error_404.php
/MkBackGround.php
/error.php
/showsigmz.php
/gridpoint_spa.php
/stations.php
/index.php
/showsigwx.php
/wxplanner_spa.php
/common.php
/zipcity.php
/siteNews.php
/obsllocal_spa.php
/glossary.php
/sitestatus.php
/status.php
/gridpoint.php
/shmrn.php
/product_sites.php
In addition to the above changes, all URLs will be served only on SSL per Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Directive M-15-13 which can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2015/m-15-13.pdf

All URLs for forecast.weather.gov and www.weather.gov will be redirected to SSL and will only be accessible at https: domain names.

The proposed new service is online for testing and feedback at:

https://forecast-v3.weather.gov

Comments will be accepted through November 15, 2016, via electronic survey at the following link:

If you have any questions or comments, please contact:

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NWS Public Information Statements are available at

www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm

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