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Public Information Notice 17-02
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
740 AM EST Mon Jan 23 2017

TO: Subscribers:
-Customers of NWS Aviation Observations in Alaska and
the Pacific Region
-Other NWS Partners, Users, and Employees in Alaska
Region (AR) and Pacific Region (PR)

FROM: William Bauman
Chief, Aviation and Space Weather Services Branch

SUBJECT: Soliciting Comments on Proposed Changes to the
Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) Augmentation
and Backup Responsibilities in Alaska and Pacific
Regions through February 20, 2017

NOTE: The following changes have no impact on NOAA Weather Wire
Service subscribers

NWS is working through a formal agreement with the Federal
Aviation Administration (FAA) to transition Automated Surface
Observing Systems (ASOS) augmentation and backup responsibilities
in Alaska and Pacific Regions. Included in this transition is the
discontinuation of any and all NWS backup of Service Level D
airports. Per FAA regulations (FAA JO 7900.C), there is no
requirement for augmentation and back up of ASOS at Service
Level D locations.

The NWS Weather Service Offices in the Alaska Region and some
offices in the Pacific Region currently augment and backup
observations for ASOS units, per an FAA-NWS Memorandum of
Understanding, dated September 2002. At the end of 2014, the FAA
assumed general oversight of the aviation surface observation
program and moved the entire CONUS aviation weather surface
observing program under FAA policies. The remaining NWS locations
that have yet to transition to FAA oversight are located in NWS
Alaska and Pacific Regions. Once this transition is complete, all
United States observing will fall under FAA policy and
regulations.

The proposed timeline below may change slightly, but the NWS
wants to ensure air carriers have advanced notice so they can
become familiar with the Non-Federal Weather Observation (NF-OBS)
Program. The NF-OBS Program is a voluntary program for non-
Federal entities to provide or augment weather observation
services addressed in FAA Order JO 7900.5. Additionally, Order JO
7210.77 has been created to provide guidance for NF-OBS weather
observing procedures and practices. Non-Federal entities, such as

fixed-base operators, airports, state and local governments, and private businesses (NF-OBS Sponsors) provide the resources necessary to ensure the performance of this aviation service. Follow the link below for the complete order (JO 7210.77) issued December 19, 2016.

https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Order/JO_7210.77_Signed.pdf

Timeline of proposed changes and transition of services to the FAA:

- January 30, 2017, NWS cease any augmentation and back-up for Annette Alaska, which has no Service level.

- March 1, 2017, NWS cease augmentation at all Service Level D airports in NWS Alaska and Pacific Regions and FAA assumes responsibility during FAA facility operating hours at Barrow, Cold Bay, and McGrath). Those locations include:

Alaska: Barrow, Cold Bay, McGrath, St. Paul and Yakutat.
Pacific: Hilo and Lihue, between the hours of 2200 to 2400 HST when they revert to Service Level D

- June 1 2017, NWS cease augmentation at the following sites and FAA assumes responsibility during FAA facility operating hours:

Pacific Region: Hilo, Lihue, Guam, which are Service Level C sites.

Alaska: Service Level A: Bethel
Service Level B: King Salmon, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Nome

- Below is a chart summarizing the changes in coverage as the FAA takes over the ASOS augmentation:

| Location | FAA Hours | NWS Hours | Gap (upon NWS closure) |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------------------|
| Bethel | 1600-0000 | 0100-1700 | 0000-1600 |
| King Salmon | 1600-0000 | 0100-1700 | 0000-1600 |
| Kodiak | N/A | 0100-1700 | 0000-2359 |
| Kotzebue | 0700-2400 | 0000-0700 | 0000-0700 |
| Nome | 0700-2300 | 0000-0700 | 2300-0700 |

If you have comments or questions regarding this public information statement, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online:

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

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