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PNSWSH

Public Information Statement 17-07  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
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From:         John Derber  
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              NCEP/Environmental Modeling Center

Subject:      Soliciting Public Comments on the Removal of GFDL  
              Hurricane Model Products and Addition of New HMON  
              Hurricane Model Products through March 17, 2017

The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) is proposing to retire the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL) Hurricane Model (GHM) and replace it with a new NOAA Environmental Modeling System (NEMS)-based hurricane model called HMON (Hurricanes in a Multi-scale Ocean-coupled Non-hydrostatic) in NCEP operations. The NWS is seeking comments on these proposed changes through March 17, 2017.

The primary reasons for retiring the legacy GFDL Hurricane Model are based on:

1. The Environmental Modeling Center's (EMC) efforts towards unification of operational models within the NEMS framework.
2. NHC's evaluation and endorsement of the new hurricane model (HMON) through evaluation of three-year (2014-2016) retrospective experiments run by EMC. HMON model consistently showed improved performance for track and intensity skill for the North Atlantic and Northeast Pacific Basins as compared to the legacy GFDL hurricane model.
3. Retirement of key personnel at GFDL leading to a loss of support for maintaining the GFDL Hurricane model in operations.

The timing of the proposed changes will be as follows:

1. The GHM will be discontinued on the date of the GFS2017 upgrade sometime in May 2017. Please reference the GFS SCN once it is disseminated for the exact date. At that time, all GHM products found on:

- NCEP servers under `hur.YYYYMMDD` will be discontinued:  
<http://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/hur/prod>

<ftp://ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/hur/prod>  
[www.ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/data/nccf/com/hur/prod](http://www.ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/data/nccf/com/hur/prod)

Where YYYYMMDD is year, month and day

- Model Analyses and Guidance will be discontinued:  
[mag.ncep.noaa.gov](http://mag.ncep.noaa.gov)

2. With the hurricane model upgrades slated for early June 2017, NCEP will start delivering the new operational model, HMON, on the NCEP servers. Please reference that SCN once it is disseminated for product details and the exact date.

NWS will evaluate all comments to determine whether to proceed with this change.

Send comments on this proposal to:

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