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From: William Bauman
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SUBJECT: Updated: Soliciting public comments through October 31, 2017, on changes to the legacy Collaborative Convective Forecast Product (CCFP).

Updated subject line to correctly identify legacy product name as Collaborative Convective Forecast Product (CCFP)

Effective 1930 UTC February 15, 2017, the NWS Aviation Weather Center (AWC) in Kansas City, MO, will begin production of the Traffic Flow Management (TFM) Convective Forecast (TCF). TCF is a high confidence graphical representation of forecasted convection meeting specific criteria of coverage, intensity, and echo top height.

From March 1 through October 31 the TCF will be collaboratively produced by meteorologists at the AWC in Kansas City and embedded at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Air Traffic Control System Command Center (ATCSCC) in Warrenton, VA, at the Center Weather Service Units (CWSU) embedded at the FAA’s Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC), and at various airlines and authorized organizations. NWS is soliciting public comments on these changes through October 31, 2017.

The TCF graphics are produced every 2 hours, 24 hours a day, and valid at 4-, 6-, and 8-hours after issuance time. The TCF domain is the Flight Information Regions (FIR) covering the 48 contiguous states and adjacent coastal waters. It also includes the Canadian airspace south of a line from Thunder Bay, Ontario, to Quebec City, Quebec. The Canadian portion of the forecast is available from April 1 through September 30.

The TCF is used by air traffic management decision makers in support of convective weather mitigation strategies within the National Airspace System. The TCF is designed to meet the needs of TFM decision makers at the ATCSCC, ARTCC Traffic Management Units (TMU), and airline and corporate Flight Operations Centers. The TCF issuance supports the FAA’s Strategic Planning
The Collaborative Convective Forecast Product (CCFP), generated through October 2014, had been the scheduled Collaborative Decision Making (CDM) product for over 10 years. The FAA identified an operational need to supplement the CCFP with an event-driven, collaborative forecast product; resulting in the Collaborative Aviation Weather Statement (CAWS) and automated CDM Convective Forecast Planning guidance.

Over the past two years, the FAA, NWS, and airline industry conducted an Operational Demonstration of the CAWS and CCFP. The results of this operational demonstration led to the evolution of the CCFP requirements. The CCFP is being renamed as the TCF and replaces the production and dissemination of the CAWS and CCFP. The TCF provides the meteorological information necessary to meet the needs of the FAA pursuant to Title 49 United States Code Section 44720.

TCF dissemination:
1) Posted on the AWC website by February 16, 2017:
   http://www.AviationWeather.gov/tcf
2) NWS Telecommunications Gateway
3) FAA Traffic Situation Display (TSD)

The Product Description Document can be found at:
http://products.weather.gov/PDD/TCFPDD.pdf

NWS is accepting comments on these changes through October 31, 2017, via the online survey below:

www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=TFMTCF

For further information, please contact:
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Public Information Statements are online at:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notif.htm

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