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To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network (EMWIN)
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Craig Hodan
 Chief, Dissemination Systems Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments until October 24, 2017, on the Proposed
Termination of the EMWIN ByteBlaster and HostMaster Services

NWS is accepting comments until October 24, 2017, on the proposed
termination of the EMWIN ByteBlaster and HostMaster services on or about
April 30, 2018.

ByteBlaster is a client-server software application which has been
implemented in privately developed and commercial software offerings.
The NWS operates four ByteBlaster servers as a public service, actively
pushing all products appearing on the EMWIN satellite broadcast to users
operating a ByteBlaster client or other compatible software over the
Internet. Users may connect to the NWS ByteBlaster servers without the
approval of, or intervention by, the NWS. HostMaster is a ByteBlaster
server load-balancing software application used to manage the clients
connected to ByteBlaster servers and automatically transfer connected
clients from one known server to another in the event of a server
failure.

Weather, water and climate products disseminated by the NWS ByteBlaster
service include national and international watches, warnings, advisories,
observations, forecasts and remote sensing information in text and
picture (binary) formats. As an Internet-based service, ByteBlaster
client-server connections can be operated from any location, worldwide,
with Internet access.

The NWS is in the process of consolidating its dissemination services
into a common architecture. Transitioning ByteBlaster into this new
architecture will require significant NWS resources and time. Alternate
public Internet-based methods are available for acquiring the products
disseminated by ByteBlaster. These alternatives provide users with the
opportunity to replace ByteBlaster in their local operations. A sample
of these services and their comparative equivalence to ByteBlaster
follows:

1. Emergency Managers Weather Information Network (EMWIN) File Transfer
Protocol (FTP) Archive
 - Interface: File pull initiated by user.

- Text Products: All text files on EMWIN satellite broadcast, in ZIP file format.
- Binary Product: All binary files sent on EMWIN satellite broadcast in ZIP file format.
- Reference: Click on the link "eEMWIN FTP Service Description draft v0.2 (Draft)," available here:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/emwin/#documents>

2. NOAA Weather Wire Service (NWWS) Operational Interface (OI).

- Interface: Automated XMPP file push to registered users (no fee).
- Text Products: NWS U.S. weather watches, warnings and advisories; does not include International products and non-weather emergency messages.
- Binary Products: None.
- Reference: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwWS/>.

3. Global Telecommunication Service (GTS) Internet File Service (GIFS)

- Interface: User-initiated web browser Graphical User Interface (GUI) and a command line interface over public Internet.
- Text Products: Limited to International products for North America, Central America and Caribbean; virtually no U.S. Weather Forecast Office (WFO)-generated products.
- Binary Products: None.
- Reference: Click on the "GIFS Open Access RMTN Users Guide" available via the following link:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/iscs/documents.html>

Web browser link:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/iscs/documents.htmlhttps://ra4gifs.weather.gov/data/RMTN/>

4. All EMWIN binary products may also be obtained by users directly from the webpages accessed by EMWIN, which are documented in the "EMWIN Image and Data Capture Catalog," here:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/emwin/EMWIN Image and Text Data Capture Catalog v 1.0 r170301-1500a.pdf>

The final disposition of the EMWIN ByteBlaster and HostMaster services will be determined after the NWS has reviewed all comments. NWS will issue a Service Change Notice in the event termination is approved.

Partners and users are encouraged to email comments regarding this proposal to:

nws.emwin.support@noaa.gov

National Public Information Statements are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

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