TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS...NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWWS/ CUSTOMERS...OTHER NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/ CUSTOMERS...NWS EMPLOYEES

FROM: JAMES E. LEE
CHIEF...FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: INTRODUCTION AND TESTING OF THE VALID TIME EVENT CODE AT THE MORRISTOWN TN FORECAST OFFICE...EFFECTIVE MARCH 6 2001

EFFECTIVE TUESDAY MARCH 6 2001 AT 8 A.M. EASTERN STANDARD TIME /EST/...1300 UNIVERSAL COORDINATED TIME /UTC/... THE WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE IN MORRISTOWN TENNESSEE WILL BEGIN INCLUDING THE VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ IN WINTER WEATHER /WSW/ AND NON-PRECIPITATION WEATHER /NPW/ MESSAGES...AS WELL AS SEVERE THUNDERSTORM /SVR/ AND TORNADO /TOR/ WARNINGS /SEE TABLE 1/.

TABLE 1: MESSAGES FROM THE MORRISTOWN TN OFFICE WHICH WILL CONTAIN THE VTEC CODE.../W/W/A STANDS FOR WATCHES..WARNINGS...OR ADVISORIES/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MESSAGE TYPE</th>
<th>AWIPS ID</th>
<th>WMO ID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NON-PRECIPITATION W/W/A</td>
<td>NPWMRX</td>
<td>WWUS74 KMRX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WINTER WEATHER W/W/A</td>
<td>WSMRX</td>
<td>WWUS44 KMRX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING</td>
<td>SVRMRX</td>
<td>WUUS54 KMRX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TORNADO WARNING</td>
<td>TORMRX</td>
<td>WFUS54 KMRX</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

/END OF TABLE 1/

THIS TEST WILL BE CONTINUOUSLY EVALUATED...WITHOUT A PLANNED ENDING DATE. IF ANY SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ARISE...THE TEST WILL BE DISCONTINUED AT AN ANNOUNCED DATE/TIME. THE TEST WILL ALLOW THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TO ENSURE THAT THE PROGRAMS WHICH CREATE THE VTEC RUN CORRECTLY AND ALSO ALLOW EXTERNAL CUSTOMERS TO DETERMINE WAYS TO UTILIZE THE VTEC IN THEIR DISSEMINATION AND NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS.

THE VTEC SPECIFIES THE CONTENT OF EACH MESSAGE SO THAT CUSTOMERS CAN USE AUTOMATED PROGRAMS TO READ...PROCESS...AND REDISTRIBUTE MESSAGES /OR PORTIONS OF MESSAGES/ WITHOUT HUMAN INTERVENTION. A VTEC STRING WILL BE LOCATED DIRECTLY BELOW THE UGC LINE/S/ IN EACH WSW...NPW...SVR...AND TOR PRODUCT FROM THE MORRISTOWN TN OFFICE...WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MESSAGES ISSUED ON BEHALF OF MORRISTOWN BY SURROUNDING OFFICES ACTING IN A BACKUP CAPACITY.
SEE TABLE 2 FOR A KEY OF THE VTEC ELEMENTS. FOR A DESCRIPTION OF
THE CODE AND ALL ELEMENTS...SEVERAL PRODUCT EXAMPLES...AND
IMPLEMENTATION PLANS...PLEASE SEE THE INTERNET SITE /USE LOWER
CASE/:

HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/VTEC/VTEC.PDF

ALL CUSTOMERS SHOULD TEST THEIR DISSEMINATION SYSTEM/S/ TO ENSURE
THE TEST VTEC LINE/S/ DOES NOT ADVERSELY IMPACT THE SYSTEM/S/ BY
MARCH 6 2001.

VTEC FORMAT:

HERE IS THE GENERIC FORMAT OF ONE VTEC STRING TO DESCRIBE A
SINGLE EVENT /EACH WATCH...WARNING...OR ADVISORY IS ACCOMPANIED
BY A VTEC STRING...SO TWO WARNINGS IN ONE SEGMENT WOULD BE
ACCOMPANIED BY TWO VTEC STRINGS/.

/AAA.CCCC.PP.S.####.DBHHMM-DEHHMM/

AAA.CCCC.PP.S.#### DESCRIBES EACH WEATHER EVENT AND
DBHHMM-DEHHMM DESCRIBES THE VALID BEGINNING AND ENDING TIME OF
THE EVENT

TABLE 2.  KEY TO VTEC ELEMENTS
AAA - ACTION CODE     /I.E. NEW FOR NEW ISSUANCE/
CCCC - OFFICE ID       /I.E. KMRX FOR THE MORRISTOWN TN OFFICE/
PP - PHENOMENA CODE    /I.E. BZ FOR BLIZZARD/
S - SIGNIFICANCE CODE  /I.E. W FOR WARNING/
#### - EVENT TRACKING NUMBER /I.E. 0005 FOR THE FIFTH ISSUANCE OF
A SPECIFIC WATCH...WARNING...OR ADVISORY/
DBHHMM - EVENT BEGINNING DATE/TIME GROUP IN UTC
DEHHMM - EVENT ENDING DATE/TIME GROUP IN UTC

VTEC DELIMITERS:

/ - BEGINS AND ENDS EACH VTEC STRING
. - SEPARATES VTEC ELEMENTS

EXAMPLE SHOWING THE UGC AND VTEC FOR ONE WSW EVENT:

_________________________________________________________________
WWUS44 KMRX 050400
WSWMRX
URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MORRISTOWN TN
1100 PM EST FRI FEB 4 2000

...DISCUSSION...

TNZ081>086-098-101-050400-
/CAN.KMRX.BZ.W.0001.000000-050400/
BLEDSOE-BRADLEY-HAMILTON-MARION-MCMINN-MEIGS-NW MONROE-RHEA-
SEQUATCHEE-WEST POLK-
INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...ATHENS...BENTON...CHATTANOOGA...
CLEVELAND...DAYTON...DECATUR...DUNLAP...JASPER...MADISONVILLE...
Pikeville

...REST OF MESSAGE...

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IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS... PLEASE CONTACT

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...NOTE TO INTERNET USERS...
THIS AND ALL OTHER NWS SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE POSTED ON /USE LOWER CASE/: HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/NOTIF.HTM

END
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