

NOUS41 KWBC 161335  
PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 01-25  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
940 AM EDT WED MAY 16 2001

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

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

SUBJECT: INTRODUCTION AND TESTING OF THE WATCH COUNTY  
NOTIFICATION MESSAGE FROM JUNE 26 TO AUGUST 24 2001 AT  
THE BINGHAMTON NY AND AMARILLO TX FORECAST OFFICES

EFFECTIVE TUESDAY JUNE 26 2001 AT 8 A.M. LOCAL TIME...  
/1200 UNIVERSAL COORDINATED TIME IN THE EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME  
ZONE...1300 UTC IN THE CENTRAL DAYLIGHT TIME ZONE/... THE WEATHER  
FORECAST OFFICES IN BINGHAMTON NEW YORK AND AMARILLO TEXAS WILL  
BEGIN SENDING TEST WATCH COUNTY NOTIFICATION MESSAGES /WCN..SEE  
TABLE ONE/. WCN MESSAGES WILL INDICATE THE STATUS INFORMATION  
/I.E. WHICH COUNTIES ARE IN OR ARE BEING CLEARED FROM/ OF SEVERE  
THUNDERSTORM OR TORNADO WATCHES IN EACH OFFICE/S AREA OF  
RESPONSIBILITY. THIS TEST WILL END AT 8 A.M. LOCAL TIME FRIDAY  
AUGUST 24 2001.

TABLE 1: TEST WATCH MESSAGES WILL BE ISSUED UNDER THE FOLLOWING  
COMMUNICATION IDENTIFIERS:

NWS OFFICE	WMO ID	AWIPS ID	PIL ID	
BINGHAMTON NY	WWUS61	KBGM	WCNBGM	ALBWCNBGM
AMARILLO TX	WWUS64	KAMA	WCNAMA	LBBWCNAMA

/END OF TABLE 1/

THE TEST WILL ALLOW THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TO ENSURE THAT  
THE PROGRAMS WHICH CREATE THE WATCH COUNTY NOTIFICATION RUN  
CORRECTLY AND ALSO ALLOW EXTERNAL CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERS TO  
DETERMINE WAYS TO UTILIZE THE WATCH COUNTY NOTIFICATION MESSAGES  
IN THEIR DISSEMINATION AND NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS. EXISTING  
OPERATIONAL WATCH MESSAGES /I.E. SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENTS/ FROM  
EACH OFFICE WILL CONTINUE DURING THIS TEST PERIOD. THE TEST  
WATCH COUNTY NOTIFICATION MESSAGES WILL NOT BE PROVIDED IF BACKUP  
SUPPORT FROM ANOTHER NWS OFFICE IS REQUIRED DURING THIS TEST  
PERIOD.

THE WCN IS DESIGNED TO STREAMLINE WATCH INFORMATION FROM WEATHER  
FORECAST OFFICES...SO IT WILL BE ISSUED TO CONVEY THE INITIAL  
ISSUANCE OF A CONVECTIVE WATCH...WHEN COUNTIES ARE BEING CLEARED  
FROM THE WATCH OR WHEN WATCHES ARE BEING CANCELED OR REPLACED BY

NEW WATCHES.

THE WCN IS A SEGMENTED PRODUCT...WITH SEPARATE SEGMENTS FOR EACH ACTION TAKEN DURING A WATCH. SEGMENTS SHOWING COUNTIES IN A WATCH WILL BE SEPARATE FROM SEGMENTS DESCRIBING WHERE COUNTIES ARE BEING CLEARED FROM A WATCH. EACH SEGMENT WILL HAVE A CORRESPONDING VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ STRING DESCRIBING THE ACTIONS TAKEN IN THAT SEGMENT.

FOR A SUITE OF EXAMPLES SHOWING THE WATCH COUNTY NOTIFICATION MESSAGES FOR EACH CONVECTIVE WATCH SITUATION...PLEASE SEE THE INTERNET SITE /USE LOWER CASE/:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/wcn/wcnex.pdf>

FOR A DESCRIPTION OF VTEC AND ITS ELEMENTS...SEVERAL PRODUCT EXAMPLES...AND IMPLEMENTATION PLANS...PLEASE SEE THE INTERNET SITE /USE LOWER CASE/:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/vtec/vtec.pdf>

CUSTOMERS WHO WISH TO RECEIVE THE WCN MESSAGES DURING THIS TEST PERIOD SHOULD ADD ONE OR BOTH OF THE COMMUNICATION IDENTIFIERS IN LISTED IN TABLE ONE TO YOUR APPROPRIATE DATABASES. FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE ISSUED ONCE A DECISION IS MADE WHETHER OR NOT TO MAKE THE WATCH COUNTY NOTIFICATION MESSAGES OPERATIONAL.

EXAMPLE:

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WWUS61 KBGM 261830  
WCNBGM

WATCH COUNTY NOTIFICATION FOR WATCH #1002  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BINGHAMTON NY  
230 PM EDT SUN 26 MAY 1998

NYC015-097-099-270100-  
/CAN.KBGM.TO.A.1002.000000-270100/

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN BINGHAMTON HAS  
CLEARED A PORTION OF TORNADO WATCH #1002.  
COUNTIES CLEARED FROM THE TORNADO WATCH INCLUDE:

IN NEW YORK:

SENECA SCHUYLER CHEMUNG

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NYC011-107-109-270100-  
/CON.KBGM.TO.A.1002.000000-270100/

TORNADO WATCH #1002 REMAINS VALID UNTIL 900 PM EDT SUNDAY FOR THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES:

IN NEW YORK:

CAYUGA TOMPKINS TIOGA

\$\$

/END OF EXAMPLE/

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS... PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF  
THE FOLLOWING METEOROLOGISTS IN CHARGE OR WARNING COORDINATION  
METEOROLOGISTS:

METEOROLOGIST IN CHARGE:      WARNING COORDINATION METEOROLOGIST:

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...NOTE TO INTERNET USERS...

THIS AND ALL OTHER NWS SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE POSTED ON THE  
INTERNET AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

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

END  
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