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Service Change Notice 13-16  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
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To:           Subscribers:  
              -Family of Services  
              -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
              -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
              -NOAAPort  
              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From:        Mary Mullusky  
              Chief, Hydrologic Services Branch

Subject: New Display of Automated Flood Warning Systems (AFWS) Webpages:  
Effective on or before March 31, 2013

On March 31, 2013, the NWS Automated Flood Warning System (AFWS) webpages currently displaying stream gage and precipitation will be discontinued:

<http://afws.erh.noaa.gov/afws/>

On or before March 31, 2013, this information will be integrated into the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) website. AFWS stream gage information will be fully integrated with all other AHPS stream gage observations and can be accessed at:

<https://water.weather.gov>

with capabilities to view the information at the national, state, Weather Forecast Office (WFO), River Forecast Center (RFC) or Water Resources Region scale. AFWS precipitation information can be accessed at:

<https://water.weather.gov/afws/>

with capabilities to view at the national, state, WFO, RFC or Water Resources Region scale. Additionally, AFWS precipitation information can be viewed at the county scale by clicking on the state, WFO, RFC or Water Resources Region view.

These changes are being made in conjunction with infrastructure modifications to increase the reliability and sustainability of NWS Web-based hydrologic services. The most significant change is the separation of the display of AFWS stream gage information from the AFWS precipitation information at the county scale. AFWS stream gage information can be accessed through WFO webpages from the AHPS River and Lakes tab. Additionally, AFWS stream gage information can be accessed through Area Hydrographs or the River Observation Map links located at the bottom of the AFWS precipitation county view page.

On or before March 31, 2013, Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) used for the NWS's AFWS Hydrologic Services webpages will be as follows:

National AFWS Information Page:

Old URL: <http://afws.erh.noaa.gov/afws/>

New URL: <https://water.weather.gov/afws/>

WFO Scale AFWS Pages:

Old URL: <http://afws.erh.noaa.gov/afws/index.php?gtype=precip&wfo=yyy>

New URL: <https://water.weather.gov/afws/region.php?wfo=yyy>

Example: <https://water.weather.gov/afws/region.php?wfo=RLX>

In the example above, yyy is the NWS forecast office identifier.

County Scale AFWS Pages:

Old URL:

<http://afws.erh.noaa.gov/afws/county.php?wfo=yyy&state=ww&county=zzz>

New URL: <https://water.weather.gov/afws/county.php?state=xx&county=zzz>

Example: <http://water.weather.gov/afws/county.php?state=WV&county=039>

In the example above, yyy is the NWS forecast office identifier, xx is the two character state abbreviation, and zzz is the numeric three-digit county ID which must be zero-padded if necessary. In the old URL, ww is a numeric two-digit state ID.

AFWS Tabular Data Pages, Precipitation:

Old URL: [http://afws.erh.noaa.gov/afws/tabular data \\$nwsl precip.html](http://afws.erh.noaa.gov/afws/tabular%20data%20$nwsl%20precip.html)

New URL:

[https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph to xml.php?gage=\\$nwsl&output=tabular&fcst type=precip](https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph%20to%20xml.php?gage=$nwsl%20&output=tabular&fcst%20type=precip)

Example:

[https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph to xml.php?gage=arfw2&output=tabular&fcst type=precip](https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph%20to%20xml.php?gage=arfw2&output=tabular&fcst%20type=precip)

In the example above, yyy is the NWS forecast office identifier and \$nwsl is the NWS location identifier of a specific precipitation gage.

AFWS Tabular Data Pages, Stage:

Old URL: [http://afws.erh.noaa.gov/afws/tabular data \\$nwsl stage.html](http://afws.erh.noaa.gov/afws/tabular%20data%20$nwsl%20stage.html)

New URL:

[https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph to xml.php?gage=\\$nwsl&output=tabular](https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph%20to%20xml.php?gage=$nwsl%20&output=tabular)

Example:

[https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph to xml.php?gage=arfw2&output=tabular](https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph%20to%20xml.php?gage=arfw2&output=tabular)

In the example above, yyy is the NWS forecast office identifier and \$nwsl is the NWS location identifier for a point along a river or stream.

Other AFWS information pages follow the pattern in the examples above where the domain name immediately following https:// is replaced with the new domain name water.weather.gov.

Old URL: <http://afws.erh.noaa.gov/afws/nationalother.php>

New URL: <https://water.weather.gov/afws/nationalother.php>

These URL changes will not affect users who access NWS web-based hydrologic services through the tabs on the NWS main page at

<https://www.weather.gov>

or the national AHPS page at <https://water.weather.gov>.

Users who access the AFWS data either through the AHPS Hydrologic Resources Automated Flood Warning System link or other AHPS pages through AFWS links will be automatically redirected to the new AFWS URLs.

Users who automatically interrogate the NWS Automated Flood Warning System Web Pages to obtain hydrologic data will need to change the URL in their procedures as shown in the examples above to access the correct Web location.

The AFWS data on this website comes from external data partners. Beginning July 2012, NWS alerted external data partners that as of March 31, 2013, the NWS will require quality-assured Automated Local Evaluation in Real Time (ALERT) messages from the below named states be transmitted to the NWS in Standard Hydrologic Exchange Format (SHEF). The impetus for this request was to increase the efficiency and extensibility of the NWS AFWS. This request will affect data from the following 12 states only: Connecticut, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

This change will better integrate the ALERT data into the AHPS Web portal, streamlining data flow and user access to related information. After March 31, 2013, the NWS will no longer be able to ingest raw ALERT messages from the above-mentioned locations. Unfortunately, some partners will be unable to convert by the March 31, 2013, deadline. This will cause gaps in the data viewed on the AHPS website which will be hosting the AFWS information.

If you have questions on your data provider's status in transitioning to the new transmission format and collection process, please contact your local WFO for information.

See Service Change Notice (SCN) 12-25: NWS to Establish New Methods to Collect Automated Flood Warning System Information by March 31, 2013: <https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/scn12-25afws.pdf> for more information.

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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