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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 13-21
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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From: John Murphy
Director, NWS Office of Science and Technology

Subject: Changes to Observations from USRCRN on or about
April 6, 2013

US Regional Climate Reference Network (USRCRN) Precipitation measurements from southwest region sites will be phased out over several months beginning on or about April 6, 2013.

The current challenging and uncertain budget environment is requiring NWS to conduct a thorough review of non-mission critical functions. The USRCRN was intended to be a nationwide network of over 500 sites performing high-quality temperature and precipitation observations at a spatial resolution sufficient to detect climate variations on a regional scale over the continental United States. Due to budget constraints, the deployment of sites was halted after 70 sites had been installed. Areas covered included Alabama and the southwest region states of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona.

This action is proposed to mitigate the potential release of hazardous materials from the precipitation sensor should adequate funds not be available to continue normal operation and maintenance of the network. Since there are no such environmental issues with the temperature sensors, temperature measurements at the USRCRN sites will continue.

Although the observations from the USRCRN sites provide value for climate monitoring in supplementing observations from other available observing systems in those areas, the USRCRN systems are not required for NWS to perform its operational mission.

Because maintenance will be completed at the Alabama sites, precipitation measurements from these sites are planned to continue through next fiscal year. In addition, temperature measurements from all sites are also planned to continue through the next fiscal year.

Information on the USRCRN program can be found at:

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/crn/usrcrn/>

Data from the Southwest Regional USRCRN observations affected by this change are located at:

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/crn/observations.htm?group=usrcrn>

For questions concerning these changes, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are available on line at:

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

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