TO: National Weather Service (NWS) Offices  
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Customers  
Family of Services (FOS) Subscribers  
Other NWS Partners and Employees  

FROM: Cynthia Abelman  
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NOTE: The following change has no impact on NOAA Weather Wire Service subscribers.  

Effective Wednesday March 26, 2014, at 1500 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), 1000 AM Eastern Standard Time (EST), the NWS will cease using the 3-letter identifier PDX as the Portland, OR, VOR reference point in NWS AIRman's METeorological Information (AIRMETs) and Significant Meteorological Information (SIGMETs).  

On June 27, 2013, the FAA decommissioned the VOR at Portland, Oregon. The nearest VOR point to Portland is the Battle Ground (BTG) VOR in Vancouver, WA, 9.6 miles north of Portland International Airport. The exact location of BTG is N45 degrees, 44.87 minutes latitude and W122 degrees, 35.49 minutes longitude. Effective March 26, 2014, NWS will cease reference to the PDX VOR identifier and begin referencing the BTG VOR for any weather reference points in northwestern Oregon or southwestern Washington.  

VORs are used by pilots for navigation and also are used in aviation weather forecasts and SIGMETs as reference points in defining the area of weather hazards. Since NWS uses VOR locations to define areal coverage of weather hazards in addition to their use as navigation aids, the NWS will make this name and identifier change to maintain consistent terminology with FAA VOR points.
If you have questions regarding this product, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are available online at:

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