

NOUS41 KWBC 311655
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 15-17
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
1255 PM EDT Tue Mar 31 2015

TO: Subscribers:
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-NOAA Weather Wire Service
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-NOAAPORT
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FROM: David Novak
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SUBJECT: Change to Issuance Times, Valid Times and Web
Display of WPC Day 1-3 Excessive Rainfall Outlooks for
CONUS Effective May 12, 2015

Effective Tuesday, May 12, 2015, at 1500 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the National Centers for Environmental Prediction's (NCEP) Weather Prediction Center (WPC) will modify the issuance times and valid forecast periods of the Day 1, 2 and 3 Excessive Rainfall Outlooks. This change includes the Day 1 Excessive Rainfall discussion.

Table 1: Products Affected by this Change Notice

Product	WMO Header	AWIPS ID
Day 1 Graphic	MENC98 KWNH	RBG94E
Day 1 Discussion	FOUS30 KWBC	QPFERD
Day 2 Graphic	MENS98 KWNH	RBG98E
Day 3 Graphic	MENU98 KWNH	RBG99E

Currently, most issuances of the product cover forecast ranges that are offset by 12 hours; however, this sliding valid period can introduce potential discontinuities between successive forecasts that are unrelated to the underlying meteorology. Additionally, the current valid periods are not consistent with similar outlook products from the Storm Prediction Center. Finally, the issuance times for the early morning Day 1, 2 and 3 products vary and can cause confusion among users regarding the timeliness of WPC's latest forecast updates.

To increase consistency between successive forecasts and simplify the schedule of product availability for users, WPC will be making the following changes to the Excessive Rainfall Outlook.

- All products will have a fixed ending valid hour of 1200 UTC
- The morning issuance time of Day 1, 2 and 3 forecasts will be synchronized to 0830 UTC

-The narrative discussion will be issued concurrently with the Day 1 graphical product.

For Day 1, the initial issuance will cover a 24-hour period from 1200 UTC-1200 UTC. Successive issuances will be updates to this forecast, with the valid period decreasing as the ending time remains fixed at 1200 UTC. Two updates will take place at scheduled times. Unscheduled updates may be transmitted at any time during the Day 1 forecast period.

For Days 2 and 3, there will be no changes to the initial early morning issuances, which will cover 24-hour periods from 1200 UTC-1200 UTC. Afternoon issuances will now maintain the same valid periods, 1200 UTC-1200 UTC, representing updates to the morning forecasts.

The new WPC product schedule is as follows

Product	New Issuance Time (UTC)	New Valid Period
Day 1*	0830	12 UTC Day 1 - 12 UTC Day 2
Day 1*	1500	15 UTC Day 1 - 12 UTC Day 2
Day 1*	0100	01 UTC Day 1 - 12 UTC Day 1
Day 2	0830	12 UTC Day 2 - 12 UTC Day 3
Day 2	2030	12 UTC Day 2 - 12 UTC Day 3
Day 3	0830	12 UTC Day 3 - 12 UTC Day 4
Day 3	2030	12 UTC Day 3 - 12 UTC Day 4

*The Day 1 Excessive Rainfall Discussion will be issued concurrently with the graphic.

Enhanced Web Display:

The Excessive Rainfall Outlook web graphics will be updated to enhance readability. The new format of the images is consistent with Storm Prediction Center Outlooks. See an example online at http://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/new_ero/94ewbg.gif.

These products are available online at:

http://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/excess_rain.shtml

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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