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Service Change Notice 15-21
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
740 AM EDT Mon Apr 6 2015

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From: Richard May
 Acting Chief, Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: Experimental Gridded Lightning Strike Density Product will
Transition to Operational Status: Effective Thursday, May 21, 2015

Effective Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 1500 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), 1100 AM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), the NWS National Centers for Environmental Prediction's (NCEP's) Ocean Prediction Center (OPC) will transition the experimental gridded lightning strike density product to operational status. The product now will be supported 24 hours per day, seven days a week.

This product enhances awareness of developing and transitory thunderstorm activity by giving users the ability to determine whether a cloud system is producing lightning, if that activity is increasing or decreasing, and to emulate the future GOES-R Global Lightning mapper (GLM) data.

The Lightning Strike Density product produced by OPC will continue to be available in gridded binary version two form (GRIB2) and also have complimentary web images. The base data is the Vaisala GLD360 land-based detection system. The gridded product is considered a derived product and is therefore acceptable for distribution to the public. The product contains the number of lightning strikes per square meter, per second. Users should remember that a lightning flash may be comprised of several or many cloud-to-ground strikes.

GRIB2 data will be available on the OPC FTP server, accessible via FTP and HTTP protocols:

[ftp://ftp.opc.ncep.noaa.gov/grids/operational/lightning density](ftp://ftp.opc.ncep.noaa.gov/grids/operational/lightning%20density)
[http://ftp.opc.ncep.noaa.gov/grids/operational/lightning density](http://ftp.opc.ncep.noaa.gov/grids/operational/lightning%20density)

Graphical images of the gridded product with GOES satellite visible and infrared (IR) satellite imagery will be available on the Atlantic and Pacific pages on the OPC webpage at:

<http://www.opc.ncep.noaa.gov/lightning>

Please send comments or requests for more information to:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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