To:       Subscribers:
- NOAA Weather Wire Service
- Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
- NOAAPort
Other NWS partners and NWS employees

From:     Mark Tew
Chief, Analysis and Mission Support Division

Subject:  Changes to city name for Barrow, AK, effective for
NWS products and services on or about August 15, 2018

The name of Barrow, AK, changed to Utqiagvik, AK, effective
December 1, 2016, following an order signed by the Lieutenant
Governor of Alaska changing the name of the municipality. Due to
the extensive coordination and planning required by the weather
enterprise to successfully complete this change, the official
date of change for most NWS products and services for the city
name change will be on or about August 15, 2018.

Major points to be aware of for NWS products and services:

- Area Forecast Discussion text products will reference
  Utqiagvik, AK, instead of Barrow, AK.

- Alaska Temperature and Precipitation Bulletin will reference
  Utqiagvik, AK, instead of Barrow, AK under the Alaska
  Temperature Extremes.

- NWS Alaska TV Weather Program graphics, audio and visual
  products will reference Utqiagvik, AK, instead of Barrow, AK.

- All NWS Alaska social media platforms including Facebook,
  Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube will reference the community of
  Utqiagvik, AK, instead of Barrow, AK.

- The “Local forecast by City, State or Zip code” search box
  located on NWS Alaska webpages and the city names displayed on
  geo-referenced maps throughout NWS Alaska web pages are not
  managed by the NWS. NWS is actively working with this service
  provider to effect the name change.

- The Location Description displayed on forecasts accessed by
  clicking on a point on the interactive web maps is dependent
  upon city names as officially documented on a periodic basis by
  the U.S. Census Bureau. The NWS is actively working with the
  Census Bureau to effect this update.
- The NOAA Weather Radio transmitter call sign will remain unchanged as KZZ53; however, the webpage will be updated to reflect the city name change:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/coverage/site2.php?State=AKNC&Site=KZZ53

The following elements will not be impacted and will remain unchanged:
- Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) code associated with North Slope Borough
- Universal Geographic Code by County (UGC-C)
- NWS Public Forecast Zone Name
- NWS Fire Weather Zone Names and Numbers
- Official name of the NWS Weather Service Office (WSO) Barrow
- Terminal Area Forecast (TAF) Location Identifier of PABR

Based on the above information, all NWS partners and users receiving NWS products and parsing exact text strings will need to change Barrow, AK, to Utqiagvik, AK, in their software and systems operations.

In the event August 15, 2018, is declared a Critical Weather Day (CWD) or significant weather is occurring, or forecast to occur, in or near Utqiagvik, AK, implementation of this NWS change will occur at 1600 UTC on the next weekday not declared a CWD Day and when no significant weather is occurring in or near Utqiagvik, AK.

Additional details on the upcoming changes will be posted on the WFO Fairbanks home page at:

www.weather.gov/afg/

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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