Public Information Statement 19-04
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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From: Kevin Cooley
Acting Director, NWS Office of Observations

Subject: Change of GOES-W Mesoscale Domain Sector 2 Default Center Position on March 5, 2019

At 1500 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) on March 5, 2019, the center point of the default location of the GOES-17 (GOES West) Advanced Baseline Imager (ABI) Mesoscale Domain Sector 2 (referred to MERO-2 or MDS-2) was moved from 35.5 deg N, 101.5 deg W to 56 deg N, 150 deg W. This sector moved from the south-central area of Continental U.S. (CONUS) to an area covering Alaska. The MERO-1 default center position for GOES-W will remain unchanged over the western CONUS: 39 deg N, 120 deg W. This change pertains only to the default position of MERO-2, which is valid only when the sector has not been repositioned to another location, typically due to important hydrometeorological phenomena. Users can expect continued frequent relocations of MERO-2, generally to where impactful hydrometeorological phenomena are anticipated or observed. MDS sectors typically return to their default locations when impactful hydrometeorological phenomena are not in progress.

This change pertains to GOES-17 (GOES-West) MERO-2 sectors, including the MERO-2 sectors on the Satellite Broadcast Network (SBN), also known as NOAAPort.

Mesoscale Domain Sectors are created only while GOES-W ABI operates in its default flex mode (i.e., Mode 3 for only the near future or, starting later in 2019, Mode 6). A separate PNS will be issued in the near future about the transition from ABI Mode 3 to Mode 6.

For questions pertaining to this change, please contact:

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