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FROM:  Mark B. Miller
        Director, Surface and Upper Air Division
        Office of Observations

SUBJECT:  Transition of Manual Radiosonde Observations to Automated Radiosonde Observations at Del Rio, TX, on or about January 24, 2020

Effective on or about January 24, 2020, radiosonde observations (RAOB) from Del Rio, TX, WMO# 72261 Station ID KDRT, will be transitioned from the manually launched Lockheed Martin 1680 MHz LMS6 radiosonde to the Vaisala 403 MHz RS41-SGPA radiosonde using the Vaisala Autosonde as the launch vehicle.

During the transition period of up to 30 days, dual radiosonde flights may be performed until the Vaisala Autosonde System is declared operational for the regularly scheduled observations of 00Z and 12Z.

Messages from the Vaisala Autosonde currently do not contain the following components: RADAT, High Res BUFR, NCEI archive format. A software update will be implemented in 2020 that will produce these data. NWS will issues a Service Change Notice when this software update is implemented and the Autosonde RAOB products contain these components.

For additional information on the message requirements, see WMO 306 Manual on Codes (International Codes):

- Volume I.1 Part A – Alphanumeric Codes
- Volume I.2 Part B – Binary Codes
- Volume II Regional Codes and National Coding Practices (WMO Region IV)

If you have questions or feedback, please contact:
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NWS Service Change Notices are online at:
https://www.weather.gov/notification/

NNNN