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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 00-16
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
800 AM EDT THU AUG 3 2000

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS
NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWWS/ AND EMWIN SUBSCRIBERS
NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS
OTHER NWS CUSTOMERS...PARTNERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: ROBIN RADLEIN...ACTING CHIEF
TECHNOLOGY AND FORECAST SYSTEMS BRANCH

SUBJECT: ACCESS TO WEATHER SURVEILLANCE RADAR-88 DOPPLER /WSR-88D/ SYSTEMS
TO OBTAIN RADAR BASE DATA

SUMMARY:

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES THE REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS FOR ACCESSING
WEATHER SURVEILLANCE RADAR-88 DOPPLER /WSR-88D/ BASE DATA...ALSO KNOWN AS
LEVEL II DATA...APPLICABLE TO THOSE ENTITIES WHO...AFTER UNDERSTANDING THE
TECHNICAL USES AND LIMITATIONS OF THESE DATA...WISH TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS
WITH THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/ FOR ACCESS.

INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD FIRST EXAMINE THE PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED NOTICES
REGARDING WSR-88D PRODUCTS /LEVEL III PRODUCTS RATHER THAN BASE DATA/
CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FROM PRIVATE VENDORS...AND SOON TO BE AVAILABLE
DIRECTLY FROM THE NWS ON THE INTERNET IN FILE TRANSFER PROTOCOL /FTP/
FORMATS AND VIA MULTI-CAST BROADCAST. DETAILS ON THESE CAPABILITIES CAN
BE OBTAINED ON THE WEB AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OSO/RPCCDS.HTML

THIS SITE CONTAINS LINKS TO OTHER SITES WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

BACKGROUND:

THE NEXT GENERATION WEATHER RADAR (NEXRAD) PROGRAM IS A JOINT EFFORT OF
THE DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE /DOC/...DEFENSE /DOD/ AND TRANSPORTATION
/DOT/. IN THE EARLY 1990S...THE PROGRAM FIELDED A NETWORK OF 158 WSR-88D
SYSTEMS TO SERVE THE OPERATIONAL NEEDS OF THE NEXRAD AGENCIES. EARLY IN
THE NEXRAD PROGRAM DEPLOYMENT...THESE AGENCIES...GOVERNMENT
LABORATORIES...GOVERNMENT AGENCIES NOT PART OF THE NEXRAD PROGRAM...AND
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS HAD AN INCREASING NEED TO ACCESS WSR-88D BASE DATA IN
REAL TIME. IN THE MID-1990S...THE NEXRAD AGENCIES ALLOWED DIRECT ACCESS
TO WSR-88D SYSTEMS TO OBTAIN BASE DATA ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AT A
LIMITED NUMBER OF SITES TO CARRY OUT COOPERATIVE OR COMPLEMENTARY RESEARCH
ON THE USE OF THESE DATA. THESE CONNECTIONS ARE VIA A RADAR INTERFACE AND
DATA DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM /RIDDS/. THE RIDDS CONSISTS OF A UNIX
WORKSTATION DESIGNED TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH THE WSR-88D BASE DATA
USER PORT LOCATED IN THE RADAR PRODUCT GENERATOR /RPG/. THE RIDDS

RECEIVES...STORES AND DISTRIBUTES BASE DATA TO USERS OVER AN 8-PORT
ETHERNET LOCAL AREA NETWORK USING A USER DATAGRAM PROTOCOL /UDP/ SERVER.

ACCESSING BASE DATA - REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS:

APPROXIMATELY 40 SITES NOW HAVE RIDDS CAPABILITIES AND COULD SUPPORT REAL
TIME DATA ACCESS. CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING POLICY...CONNECTIONS ARE
AUTHORIZED FOR BONAFIDE RESEARCH PURPOSES ONLY. THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT
GUARANTEE A CONTINUOUS FLOW OF DATA FROM THE RIDDS CONNECTIONS SINCE THEY
ARE NOT CONSIDERED OPERATIONAL AND HAVE A LOW PRIORITY FOR REPAIRS.
ADDITIONALLY...THE DATA MAY NOT BE USED FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.

TO OBTAIN A CONNECTION...AN ORGANIZATION MUST REQUEST ACCESS IN WRITING
AND RECEIVE NEXRAD PROGRAM APPROVAL. CONNECTING ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE
REQUIRED TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT /MOA/ VALID FOR UP TO THREE
YEARS. THE CONDITIONS FOR CONNECTION WILL BE DEFINED IN THE MOA WITH THE
NEXRAD AGENCY OWNING THE WSR-88D SYSTEM. CONNECTIONS TO THE RIDDS PORTS
ARE ON A FIRST COME...FIRST SERVED BASIS AND CONNECTIONS MAY BE TERMINATED
IF THE NEXRAD AGENCIES HAVE A NEED FOR THE PORT AND NO OTHER PORT IS
AVAILABLE. ALL COMMUNICATION COSTS TO THE RIDDS INTERFACE ARE THE
RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONNECTING ORGANIZATION. THE CONNECTING
ORGANIZATION MAY NOT PLACE ANY EQUIPMENT INSIDE THE NEXRAD AGENCY
FACILITY...EXCEPT THE REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. THE
INSTALLATION...REMOVAL OR CHANGES TO ALL COMMUNICATIONS CONNECTIONS MUST
BE COORDINATED WITH THE LOCAL NEXRAD AGENCY OFFICE MANAGER IN ADVANCE.
REPRESENTATIVES OF A CONNECTING ORGANIZATION MUST BE PRE-APPROVED TO ENTER
THE WSR-88D FACILITIES.

ANTICIPATED CHANGES IN THE FUTURE WILL ALLOW FOR CONNECTIONS TO A GREATER
NUMBER OF RADARS...WITH NO RESTRICTIONS ON HOW THE DATA MAY BE USED. THE
INTRODUCTION OF AN OPEN SYSTEMS RADAR PRODUCT GENERATOR...TO BE DEPLOYED
IN 2001 AND 2002...WILL EXPAND REAL TIME BASE DATA AVAILABILITY.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION...PLEASE CONTACT:

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NATIONAL TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:
[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

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