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PNSWSH

TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 04-65  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
320 PM EST WED DEC 15 2004

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS...NOAA  
WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWS/ SUBSCRIBERS... EMERGENCY  
MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/  
SUBSCRIBERS...NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS...OTHER NATIONAL  
WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/ CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERS...AND NWS  
EMPLOYEES

FROM: GLENN AUSTIN  
ACTING CHIEF...DIGITAL SERVICES  
OFFICE OF CLIMATE WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES

SUBJECT: UPDATE: NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE NATIONAL DIGITAL  
FORECAST DATABASE /NDFD/ STATUS

REFER TO: TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 04-49 SENT  
SEPTEMBER 16 2004...SAME SUBJECT

THIS IS THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF MESSAGES TO UPDATE YOU ON THE  
STATUS OF THE NATIONAL DIGITAL FORECAST DATABASE /NDFD/  
ELEMENTS...AS PROMISED IN TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE /TIN/  
04-49.

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/ REACHED A MAJOR MILESTONE ON  
DECEMBER 1 2004 AS WE TRANSITIONED THREE EXPERIMENTAL GRIDDED  
FORECAST ELEMENTS /MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE...MINIMUM  
TEMPERATURE...AND THE 12 HOUR PROBABILITY OF PRECIPITATION/ TO  
OPERATIONAL STATUS.

ON MARCH 15 2005...THREE ADDITIONAL NDFD ELEMENTS WILL TRANSITION  
TO OPERATIONAL STATUS. SPECIFICALLY...THESE THREE ELEMENTS  
INCLUDE:

TEMPERATURE  
DEW POINT  
WEATHER

A TEAM OF NWS EXPERTS WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR A NUMBER OF  
FACTORS TO DETERMINE OPERATIONAL READINESS OF THE REMAINING  
EXPERIMENTAL GRIDS FOR THE CONUS. THE FACTORS USED IN THE  
ASSESSMENT ARE:

- DATA QUALITY:  
SPATIAL CONSISTENCY  
TIMELINESS  
COMPLETENESS

- VERIFICATION SCORES:  
FORECAST ERROR  
FORECAST BIAS
  
- SUBJECTIVE FACTORS:  
APPEARANCE  
OTHER ISSUES

IN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS...THE NWS PLANS TO IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING CHANGES IN FORECAST METHODOLOGIES:

- MANDATING USE OF A QUALITY ASSURANCE TOOL AT EACH WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE /WFO/
- INVESTIGATING SOURCES OF ERRORS AND INCONSISTENCIES
- SHARING BEST PRACTICES FROM HIGH-PERFORMING WFOS
- CLARIFYING DEFINITIONS IN POLICY DIRECTIVES

WE BELIEVE THESE CHANGES WILL LEAD TO MEASURED IMPROVEMENTS IN THE DIGITAL DATABASE...PARTICULARLY IN THE TEMPERATURE...DEW POINT...AND WEATHER GRID ELEMENTS.

THE SIX REMAINING EXPERIMENTAL ELEMENTS FOR THE CONUS ARE:

SKY COVER  
QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION FORECAST /QPF/  
SNOW AMOUNT  
WIND DIRECTION  
WIND SPEED  
SIGNIFICANT WAVE HEIGHT

THE NWS WILL CONTINUE TO ASSESS THE OPERATIONAL READINESS OF ALL OF THE EXPERIMENTAL ELEMENTS OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS. WE WILL PROVIDE THE NEXT OPERATIONAL READINESS STATUS MESSAGE AS A TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE NO LATER THAN MARCH 15 2005. USERS WILL BE GIVEN 30 DAYS ADVANCE NOTICE OF OUR DECISION TO DECLARE ANY NDFD GRID ELEMENT OFFICIAL.

USERS ARE REMINDED THAT ALL 12 OF THE ORIGINAL SET OF NDFD GRIDDED ELEMENTS FOR HAWAII...GUAM...AND PUERTO RICO CONTINUE IN EXPERIMENTAL STATUS. THESE ELEMENTS ARE:

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE  
MINIMUM TEMPERATURE  
PROBABILITY OF PRECIPITATION /POP12/  
SKY COVER  
QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION FORECAST /QPF/  
SNOW AMOUNT  
WEATHER  
WIND DIRECTION  
WIND SPEED  
TEMPERATURE  
DEW POINT  
SIGNIFICANT WAVE HEIGHT

NDFD VERIFICATION INFORMATION FOR USERS IS AVAILABLE AT:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/NDFD/VERIFICATION/](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/ndfd/verification/)

MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE CONTENT OF THE NDFD GRIDDED DATA FILES AND FTP INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING THE OFFICIAL AND EXPERIMENTAL GRID ELEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/NDFD/TECHNICAL.HTM](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/ndfd/technical.htm)

USERS OF THE EXPERIMENTAL GRID PRODUCTS ARE ASKED TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON WHICH ELEMENTS ARE MOST NEEDED AND WHICH APPEAR READY TO BE DESIGNATED OFFICIAL. A BRIEF SURVEY AND COMMENT FORM IS AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=ndfd-grids>

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS NOTICE...PLEASE CONTACT:

DOUG YOUNG  
PUBLIC AND DIGITAL SERVICES  
OFFICE OF CLIMATE WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES  
NWS HEADQUARTERS  
EMAIL: DOUGLAS.YOUNG@NOAA.GOV

IF YOU HAVE TECHNICAL QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NDFD DATA...PLEASE CONTACT:

DAVID RUTH  
CHIEF...MESOSCALE PREDICTION BRANCH  
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
NWS HEADQUARTERS  
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THIS INFORMATION WILL ALSO BE POSTED ON THE NWS DATA MANAGEMENT CHANGE NOTICES WEB PAGE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/DATAMGMT/NOTICES.SHTML](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/datamgmt/notices.shtml)

THIS AND ALL OTHER NWS TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES ARE POSTED AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/NOTIF.HTM](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notif.htm)

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