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Technical Implementation Notice 11-14
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
340 PM EDT Mon Apr 18 2011

To: Subscribers:
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           -NOAA Weather Wire Service
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           -NOAAPort
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From: Tim McClung
           Chief, Science Plans Branch
           Office of Science and Technology

Subject: Climate Forecast System (CFS) Change

Effective July 5, 2011, beginning with the 1200 Coordinated Universal Time
(UTC) run, the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) will
change the output grid of all of the nine (9) parameters in two (2) files
from the Data Assimilation cycle of the Climate Forecast System (CDAS1)
from 0.5x0.5 degree latitude-longitude to a 27 km Gaussian Grid
(1760x880).

The nine (9) parameters that will be affected in each of the two (2) files
are:

CWATclm - atmospheric column cloud water [kg/m2]
HGThlev1 - hybrid level 1 geopotential height [gpm]
PRESsfc - surface pressure [Pa]
PWATclm - atmospheric column precipitable water [kg/m2]
SPFHhlev1 - hybrid level 1 specific humidity [kg/kg]
TMPhlev1 - hybrid level 1 temperature [K]
UGRDhlev1 - hybrid level 1 u wind [m/s]
VGRDhlev1 - hybrid level 1 v wind [m/s]

The CDAS1 output files are available on the NCEP server at:

http://www.ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/data/nccf/com/cfs/prod/

and on the NOAA National Operational Model Archive and Distribution System
(NOMADS) at:

http://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/cfs/prod/
The grid change will occur in the following two (2) files only:

cdas1.txxz.splgrbanl.grib2
cdas1.txxz.splgrbf06.grib2

where xx is 00, 06, 12, 18.

A set of test files is available at:

http://cfs.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/raid0/cfsv2/sample.spl.new

There will be no changes in the delivery time of CFS products.

NCEP encourages all users to ensure their decoders are flexible and are able to adequately handle changes in content order, changes in the scaling factor component within the product definition section (PDS) of the gridded binary (GRIB) files, and also any volume changes which may be forthcoming. These elements may change with future NCEP model implementations. NCEP will make every attempt to alert users to these changes prior to any implementations.

For questions regarding these changes, please contact:

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National Technical Implementation Notices are online at:

https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive

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