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Technical Information Notice 13-15
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington, DC
225 PM EDT Tue June 11 2013

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From: Rebecca Cosgrove
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 NCEP Central Operations

Subject: NCEP Production Suite Operational on WCOSS Effective
 July 16, 2013, with Live Testing June 25 and
 July 2

Effective Tuesday July 16, 2013, with the 1200 Universal Coordinated Time (UTC) cycle, the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) will transition the NCEP Production Suite to the new Weather and Climate Operational Supercomputing System (WCOSS). All models and applications in the NCEP Production Suite will be run on the WCOSS and disseminated from those systems.

Users should take note of the following:

- The model solutions on the WCOSS differ from those on the current operational supercomputing system due to significant machine differences and small differences in data timing.
- There are some modifications to output products and product content. Those differences are outlined below.
- NCEP will conduct two live tests of the WCOSS system on Tuesday June 25th, and Tuesday, July 2nd, during the 1200 UTC model cycle. The test will start with the 06 UTC GDAS system and run through the 15 UTC SREF run. During this live test, data will be disseminated operationally from only the WCOSS system via NOAAPORT and the NWS/NCEP ftp servers, and users will need to be prepared for the product changes described below.
- The transition to WCOSS on July 16th will not affect how data is disseminated to users -- data will continue to be available on NOAAPORT and the NWS and NCEP ftp servers where it is currently available.
- The July 16th implementation date may need to be postponed or moved up in the event that a Critical Weather Day (CWD) is anticipated.

As mentioned above, there are some differences in the output format and content of the NCEP Production Suite. The highlights

are as follows:

- Major upgrades to the HWRF and HYSPLIT models with smaller enhancements/bug fixes to the SREF and NAM models. The Global RTOFS system will be expanded to produce output for 8 days, up from the current 6 days.
- Some filename and compression changes for the Wave models, NGOFS model, NAM, and NCEP FNMOC combined ensemble
- Some larger-sized files from the hurricane wave model will now be compressed, while files from the NGOFS will be broken up by forecast hour.
- Some changes to the order of fields in files, and changes to precision of some fields in the CFS.
- Some CDAS ocean files will no longer contain FORTRAN blocking.
- The CDC products on the NCEP ftp server will be discontinued, along with a few output files from the NWW3 wave model that have alternate wave model output to replace them.
- The delivery times of some products may change – mostly in the direction of products coming out earlier. This is still being refined as we do final tuning and will be posted at the webpage below.

All of the known changes are outlined at:

<http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/changes/docs/wcosseval.shtml>

As part of this transition NCEP has been making the output from the WCOSS runs of the NCEP Production Suite available to the public for evaluation. We will continue to do this until WCOSS goes operational. Users are encouraged to review this parallel output to evaluate any changes needed prior to the June 25th and July 2nd live tests.

The GRIB, BUFR and text output is available for download at:

<http://ftpt.ncep.noaa.gov/com>

Imagery of the model output from a MAG-like website is online at:

<http://magpara.ncep.noaa.gov>

If you have technical questions or comments, please contact:

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National Technical Implementation Notices are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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