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PNSWSH

Technical Information Notice 13-15, Amended
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington, DC
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To: Subscribers:
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-NOAA Weather Wire Service
-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
-NOAAPORT
Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Rebecca Cosgrove
Acting Chief, Production Management Branch
NCEP Central Operations

Subject: Amended: NCEP Production Suite Operational on WCOSS
Effective July 23, 2013, with Live Testing June 25 and
July 2, 2013

Amended to reschedule the effective date from July 16th to Tuesday
July 23, 2013

Users are encouraged to review the website given below which
documents all known changes to the Production Suite, including
any changes in delivery time of products due to the change in
computers.

Effective on or about Tuesday July 23, 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 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 23rd 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 were made 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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