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Technical Implementation Notice 15-17
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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From: Terrance J. Clark
 Acting Director, Radar Operations Center

Subject: WSR-88D Software Build 17 Changes To Be Deployed
 Summer 2016

The NEXRAD Program will conduct the Beta Test and deployment of the Radar Data Acquisition/Radar Product Generator (RDA/RPG) Build 17.0 software and hardware upgrade in 2016. The Beta Test is tentatively scheduled to begin in February 2016 with full deployment beginning in July 2016.

The content impacting external users includes:

1. The Archive III Status Product (ASP) frequency will be increased to once every 3 hours (00 UTC, 03 UTC, 06 UTC, etc).
2. Model data will be added to the Level II data stream. These data include environmental information used by the RPG, such as winds and the 0 and -20 degree Celsius heights. The bandwidth increase will be approximately 500 KBytes/hr.
3. The Hail Size Discrimination Algorithm (HSDA) will be implemented within the current Hydrometeor Classification (HCA) product. New categories of Large Hail and Giant Hail will be added to HCA. Site operators will have the capability to turn HSDA off or on. The product version number will be 1 if HCA is configured to provide hail sizes.
4. Additional adaptable parameters will be added to the numeric and alphanumeric output of the Storm Total Accumulation (171/STA) and Digital Storm Total Accumulation (172/DSA) products. More information on these adaptable parameters will be provided in the Build 17.0 draft Product Specification Interface Control Document (ICD).
5. In addition to the above changes, pending the successful outcome of the MESO-SAILS Field Test, MESO-SAILS will become operational in RDA/RPG Build 17.0. More information on MESO-SAILS is online at:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/tin15-04wsr-88d_mesosails.txt

Build 17.0 draft Interface Control Documents (ICDs) will be provided on the Radar Operations Center's website under New Radar Technologies in summer 2015:

<http://www.roc.noaa.gov/WSR88D/NewRadarTechnology/NewTechDefault.aspx>

For more information, visit the Radar Operations Center website:

<http://www.roc.noaa.gov/wsr88d>

For 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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