U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
1325 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3283

August 15, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: Wayne Higgins
Director, Climate Prediction Center

FROM: Ahsha N. Tribble *Ahsha N. Tribble* (signed)
Chief, Climate Services Division; Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services

SUBJECT: Climate Outlooks to Be Added to the Operational National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) on August 21, 2008

In response to user requirements, the NWS plans to transition the experimental National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) Climate Outlooks Gridded elements to operational status on August 21, 2008 at 1200 UTC.

All of these following elements will be available for the contiguous U.S. (CONUS), the 16 pre-defined NDFD CONUS subsectors (http://www.weather.gov/ndfd/coverage.htm), and Alaska.

- Probability of 8- to 14-Day Average Temperature Above Normal
- Probability of 8- to 14-Day Average Temperature Below Normal
- Probability of 8- to 14-Day Total Precipitation Above Median
- Probability of 8- to 14-Day Total Precipitation Below Median
- Probability of One-month Average Temperature Above Normal
- Probability of One-month Average Temperature Below Normal
- Probability of One-month Total Precipitation Above Median
- Probability of One-month Total Precipitation Below Median
- Probability of Three-month Average Temperature Above Normal
- Probability of Three-month Average Temperature Below Normal
- Probability of Three-month Total Precipitation Above Median
- Probability of Three-month Total Precipitation Below Median

These probabilistic outlooks pertain to the average temperature and total precipitation for the entire valid period and **not** to the variability within it; these outlooks will **not** help people planning events for specific dates or sub-periods.

GRID CREATION METHODOLOGY

The Climate Outlook Probability elements are issued as follows:

- 8- to 14-Day Outlooks at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Local time each day with one week lead time.

- One-Month Outlook twice a month; at around 8:30 a.m. Eastern local time on the third Thursday of the previous month (about 0.5 month lead time) and 3:00 p.m. Eastern local time on the last day of the previous month ("zero lead" time).

- Three-Month Outlooks: CPC issues 13 Three-Month Outlooks simultaneously once a month on the third Thursday of the month at around 8:30 a.m. Eastern local time. CPC will issue the 13 outlooks with lead times from 0.5 months to 12.5 months. For example, on the third Thursday in mid-January, CPC will issue Three-Month Outlooks for February through April, March through May, April through June, and so on to February through April of the following year.

More details are available in the Product Description Document at:

http://products.weather.gov/search.php
Search "product name" for "Climate Outlook Probability Elements"

cc:
Regional Climate Services Program Managers
CPC, Deputy Director (M. Halpert)
CPC, Chief, Operations Branch (E. O'Lenic)
CPC, Head of CPC Forecast Operations (J. Gottschalck)
OCWWS, Head of Forecast Database Services Team (A. Horvitz)