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TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 06-51
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
308 PM EDT WED JUL 19 2006

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS
NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWWS/ SUBSCRIBERS
EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/
SUBSCRIBERS
NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS
OTHER NWS CUSTOMERS...PARTNERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: GLENN AUSTIN
DIGITAL SERVICES TRANSITION MANAGER
OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES

SUBJECT: CHANGE IN TIME THE NWS NATIONAL DIGITAL FORECAST DATABASE /NDFD/
IS EXTENDED BY 24 HOURS: EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 28 2006

NDFD IS DESIGNED TO BE FREQUENTLY REFRESHED. FORECAST ELEMENTS ARE GENERATED AND REVISED AT THE LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES AND NATIONAL CENTERS. THESE FORECASTS ARE PROCESSED CENTRALLY AND MADE AVAILABLE IN SEVERAL FORMATS VIA NDFD. REVISED FORECASTS FOR UP TO SEVEN DAYS ARE CURRENTLY MADE AVAILABLE NEAR THE TOP OF EACH HOUR. THE FORECAST DATABASE IS CURRENTLY EXTENDED BY 24 HOURS ONCE A DAY AT 1800 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/.

BEGINNING NOVEMBER 28 2006...THE TIME THE NATIONAL DIGITAL FORECAST DATABASE IS EXTENDED BY 24 HOURS WILL CHANGE FROM 1800 UTC TO 2200 UTC. THIS CHANGE WILL ALLOW NWS FORECASTERS TO ASSIMILATE THE MOST RECENT FORECAST MODELS AND NATIONAL CENTERS GUIDANCE AND TO COLLABORATE WITH OTHER NWS OFFICES. THE RESULT WILL BE MORE ACCURATE AND MORE COHERENT FORECASTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. NWS IS MAKING THIS CHANGE AS PART OF OUR ONGOING SERVICE IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS.

THE CHANGE ON NOVEMBER 28 2006 APPLIES TO ALL ELEMENTS IN THE NDFD - OPERATIONAL AND EXPERIMENTAL - AND ALL DOMAINS /THE CONTIGUOUS U.S. /CONUS/...THE 16 PRE-DEFINED CONUS SUBSECTORS...HAWAII...GUAM AND ALASKA/.

THIS CHANGE AFFECTS USERS WHO PULL NDFD ELEMENT FILES IN GRIDDED BINARY VERSION TWO /GRIB2/ FORMAT FROM THE NWS FILE TRANSFER PROTOCOL /FTP/ SERVER...EITHER VIA THE INTERNET OR VIA THE FAMILY OF SERVICES SERVER ACCESS SERVICE. THE CHANGE ALSO AFFECTS USERS WHO ACCESS NDFD IN EXTENSIBLE MARKUP LANGUAGE /XML/ VIA WEB SERVICE. THIS CHANGE DOES NOT AFFECT USERS OF NDFD WEB GRAPHICS.

THERE ARE NO NEW WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION /WMO/ HEADINGS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CHANGE. HOWEVER...USERS THAT KEY ON WMO HEADINGS WITHIN THE GRIB2 ELEMENT FILES MUST PROPERLY IDENTIFY HEADINGS ACCORDING TO FORECAST DAY. FOR EXAMPLE...GRIDS DESIGNATED AS DAY TWO FORECASTS IN THE WMO HEADING WILL NOT CHANGE TO A DAY ONE DESIGNATION UNTIL 2200 UTC EACH DAY ON AND AFTER NOVEMBER 28 2006.

IF NOVEMBER 28 2006 IS A CRITICAL WEATHER DAY...THIS IMPLEMENTATION MAY BE POSTPONED. USERS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THAT DECISION AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE.

RELATIONSHIP TO CHANGES SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 6 2006:

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 6 2006...NDFD FORECASTS FOR DAYS ONE THROUGH THREE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE HOURLY SHORTLY AFTER THE TOP OF EACH HOUR. FORECASTS FOR DAYS FOUR THROUGH SEVEN WILL BE POSTED ABOUT 15 MINUTES BEFORE THE HOUR AT FOUR TIMES PER DAY...AT 0000 UTC...0600 UTC...1200 UTC AND 1800 UTC. STARTING ON NOVEMBER 28 2006...A FIFTH UPDATE TIME FOR DAYS FOUR THROUGH SEVEN WILL BE ADDED AT 2200 UTC. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS CHANGE EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 6 2006...SEE TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES /TINS/ [06-39](#) AND [06-30](#).

USERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK BY USING THE BRIEF SURVEY AND COMMENT FORM AVAILABLE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/SURVEY/NWS-SURVEY.PHP?CODE=TCSWP](http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=tcswp)

FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NDFD...PLEASE EMAIL:
NWS.NDFD@NOAA.GOV

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON NDFD...REFER TO THE FOLLOWING WEBPAGES /USE LOWER CASE FOR ALL URLS BELOW/:

CONTENT OF AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING THE NDFD IN EITHER GRIB2 FORMAT OR XML:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/NDFD/TECHNICAL.HTM](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/ndfd/technical.htm) [HTTP://WEATHER.GOV/XML/](http://weather.gov/xml/)

FOR NDFD GRAPHICS:

[HTTP://WEATHER.GOV/FORECASTS/GRAPHICAL/SECTORS/](http://weather.gov/forecasts/graphical/sectors/)

OPERATIONAL STATUS OF ALL NWS NDFD ELEMENTS:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/NDFD/RESOURCES/OPER STATUS TABLE.PDF](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/ndfd/resources/oper_status_table.pdf)

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS NOTICE...PLEASE CONTACT:

CHRIS ALEX
DIGITAL SERVICES
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND
EMAIL: CHRISTINE.ALEX@NOAA.GOV

IF YOU HAVE TECHNICAL QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NDFD DATA...PLEASE CONTACT:

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NATIONAL TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATIONS/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notifications/archive)

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