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PNSWSH

TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 04-49  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
230 PM EDT THU SEP 16 2004

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

FROM: GREG MANDT  
DIRECTOR...OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES

SUBJECT: UPDATE: NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE NATIONAL DIGITAL FORECAST  
DATABASE /NDFD/ STATUS

REFER TO: [TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE /TIN/ 04-34](#)...SENT JUNE 30 2004.

ON DECEMBER 1 2004...PORTIONS OF THE NDFD WILL BECOME AN OFFICIAL NWS  
PRODUCT. SPECIFICALLY...THE NWS HAS DETERMINED THAT THREE OF THE INITIAL  
12 EXPERIMENTAL ELEMENTS WILL BE DECLARED OFFICIAL. THESE THREE OFFICIAL  
ELEMENTS INCLUDE:

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE  
MINIMUM TEMPERATURE  
PROBABILITY OF PRECIPITATION /POP12/

THESE OFFICIAL ELEMENTS WILL BE LOCATED AT THE FOLLOWING URL ON DECEMBER  
1.../USE LOWER CASE EXCEPT FOR SL...ST...DF...DC AND AR/:

[FTP://TGFTP.NWS.NOAA.GOV/SL.US008001/ST.OPNL/DF.GR2/DC.NDFD/AR.CONUS/](http://TGFTP.NWS.NOAA.GOV/SL.US008001/ST.OPNL/DF.GR2/DC.NDFD/AR.CONUS/)

THIS REPRESENTS AN INITIAL OPERATING CAPABILITY /IOC/ FOR NDFD.

THE NWS EXPECTS TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THE  
RELIABILITY...ACCURACY...CONSISTENCY AND TIMELINESS OF THE GRID ELEMENTS  
AFTER NDFD IOC. UNTIL THE NWS COMPLETES BACKUP SERVER UPGRADES ON MARCH 1  
2005...USERS MAY EXPERIENCE SERVICE DELAYS ON RARE OCCASIONS.

THE NWS IS WORKING TO IMPROVE NDFD CONSISTENCY AND ACCURACY ON DAYS WITH  
LARGE...WIDESPREAD WEATHER EVENTS. EXPERIMENTAL NDFD VERIFICATION  
INFORMATION FOR USERS IS AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING URL.../USE LOWER  
CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/NDFD/VERIFICATION/](http://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/NDFD/VERIFICATION/)

THE NINE REMAINING ELEMENTS FROM THE ORIGINAL SET WILL RETAIN THEIR  
EXPERIMENTAL STATUS WHILE THEY ARE IMPROVED AND EVALUATED. USERS WILL BE  
GIVEN 30 DAYS' NOTICE WHEN AN ELEMENT MOVES FROM EXPERIMENTAL TO OFFICIAL  
STATUS. THE NWS WILL ANNOUNCE BY DECEMBER 15 2004 WHICH ADDITIONAL

ELEMENTS WILL BE TRANSITIONED TO OFFICIAL NWS PRODUCTS ON JANUARY 15 2005.

THESE NINE EXPERIMENTAL ELEMENTS INCLUDE:

SKY COVER  
QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION FORECAST /QPF/  
SNOW AMOUNT  
WEATHER  
WIND DIRECTION  
WIND SPEED  
TEMPERATURE  
DEW POINT  
SIGNIFICANT WAVE HEIGHT

THESE ELEMENTS...ALONG WITH ALL OTHER EXPERIMENTAL ELEMENTS... WILL CONTINUE TO BE ACCESSED AT THE FOLLOWING URL.../USE LOWER CASE EXCEPT FOR SL...ST...DF...DC AND AR/:

<FTP://TGFTP.NWS.NOAA.GOV/SL.US008001/ST.EXPR/DF.GR2/DC.NDFD/AR.CONUS/>

THERE WILL BE NO OVERLAP OF DATA BETWEEN THE TWO DIRECTORIES. ONCE AN ELEMENT BECOMES OFFICIAL AND MOVES TO THE OPERATIONAL DIRECTORY...IT WILL NO LONGER BE ACCESSIBLE IN THE EXPERIMENTAL DIRECTORY.

USERS OF THE EXPERIMENTAL GRID PRODUCTS ARE ASKED TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON WHICH ELEMENTS ARE MOST NEEDED...AND WHICH APPEAR READY TO BE DESIGNATED OFFICIAL. A BRIEF SURVEY AND COMMENT FORM IS AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING URL.../USE LOWER CASE/:

<HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/SURVEY/NWS-SURVEY.PHP?CODE=NDFD-GRIDS>

DATA FROM THE NDFD ARE PROVIDED IN GRIB /GRIDDED BINARY/ FORMAT. MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE CONTENT OF THESE FILES AND FILE TRANSFER PROTOCOL /FTP/ INSTRUCTIONS CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE URL LISTED BELOW /USE LOWER CASE/:

<HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/NDFD/TECHNICAL/TECHNICAL.HTM>

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

LEROY SPAYD  
CHIEF...METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION  
NWS HEADQUARTERS  
OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES  
EMAIL: [LEROY.SPAYD@NOAA.GOV](mailto:LEROY.SPAYD@NOAA.GOV)

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

DAVID RUTH  
CHIEF...MESOSCALE PREDICTION BRANCH  
NWS HEADQUARTERS  
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
EMAIL: [DAVID.RUTH@NOAA.GOV](mailto:DAVID.RUTH@NOAA.GOV)

THIS INFORMATION IS ALSO POSTED ON THE NWS DATA MANAGEMENT CHANGE NOTICES  
WEBPAGE AT THE URL LISTED BELOW /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/DATAMGMT/NOTICES.SHTML](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/datamgmt/notices.shtml)

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

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

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