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TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 04-65
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
320 PM EST WED DEC 15 2004

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

FROM: GLENN AUSTIN
ACTING CHIEF...DIGITAL SERVICES
OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES

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

REFER TO: [TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE /TIN/ 04-49](#)...SENT SEPTEMBER 16
2004...SAME SUBJECT.

THIS IS THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF MESSAGES TO UPDATE YOU ON THE STATUS OF
THE NATIONAL DIGITAL FORECAST DATABASE /NDFD/ ELEMENTS...AS PROMISED IN
[TIN 04-49](#).

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/ REACHED A MAJOR MILESTONE ON DECEMBER 1
2004 AS WE TRANSITIONED THREE EXPERIMENTAL GRIDDED FORECAST ELEMENTS
/MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE...MINIMUM TEMPERATURE AND THE 12-HOUR PROBABILITY OF
PRECIPITATION/ TO OPERATIONAL STATUS.

ON MARCH 15 2005...THREE ADDITIONAL NDFD ELEMENTS WILL TRANSITION TO
OPERATIONAL STATUS. SPECIFICALLY...THESE THREE ELEMENTS INCLUDE:

TEMPERATURE
DEW POINT
WEATHER

A TEAM OF NWS EXPERTS WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR A NUMBER OF FACTORS TO
DETERMINE OPERATIONAL READINESS OF THE REMAINING EXPERIMENTAL GRIDS FOR
THE CONUS. THE FACTORS USED IN THE ASSESSMENT ARE:

DATA QUALITY:
- SPATIAL CONSISTENCY
- TIMELINESS
- COMPLETENESS

VERIFICATION SCORES:
- FORECAST ERROR
- FORECAST BIAS

SUBJECTIVE FACTORS:

- APPEARANCE
- OTHER ISSUES

IN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS...THE NWS PLANS TO IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING CHANGES IN FORECAST METHODOLOGIES:

- MANDATING USE OF A QUALITY ASSURANCE TOOL AT EACH WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE /WFO/.
- INVESTIGATING SOURCES OF ERRORS AND INCONSISTENCIES.
- SHARING BEST PRACTICES FROM HIGH-PERFORMING WFOS.
- CLARIFYING DEFINITIONS IN POLICY DIRECTIVES.

WE BELIEVE THESE CHANGES WILL LEAD TO MEASURED IMPROVEMENTS IN THE DIGITAL DATABASE...PARTICULARLY IN THE TEMPERATURE...DEW POINT AND WEATHER GRID ELEMENTS.

THE SIX REMAINING EXPERIMENTAL ELEMENTS FOR THE CONUS ARE:

SKY COVER
QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION FORECAST /QPF/
SNOW AMOUNT
WIND DIRECTION
WIND SPEED
SIGNIFICANT WAVE HEIGHT

THE NWS WILL CONTINUE TO ASSESS THE OPERATIONAL READINESS OF ALL OF THE EXPERIMENTAL ELEMENTS OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS. WE WILL PROVIDE THE NEXT OPERATIONAL READINESS STATUS MESSAGE AS A TIN NO LATER THAN MARCH 15 2005. USERS WILL BE GIVEN 30 DAYS' ADVANCE NOTICE OF OUR DECISION TO DECLARE ANY NDFD GRID ELEMENT OFFICIAL.

USERS ARE REMINDED THAT ALL 12 OF THE ORIGINAL SET OF NDFD GRIDDED ELEMENTS FOR HAWAII...GUAM AND PUERTO RICO CONTINUE IN EXPERIMENTAL STATUS. THESE ELEMENTS ARE:

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE
MINIMUM TEMPERATURE
PROBABILITY OF PRECIPITATION /POP12/
SKY COVER
QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION FORECAST /QPF/
SNOW AMOUNT
WEATHER
WIND DIRECTION
WIND SPEED
TEMPERATURE
DEW POINT
SIGNIFICANT WAVE HEIGHT

NDFD VERIFICATION INFORMATION FOR USERS IS AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/NDFD/VERIFICATION/](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/ndfd/verification/)

MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE CONTENT OF THE NDFD GRIDDED DATA FILES AND FILE TRANSFER PROTOCOL /FTP/ INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING THE OFFICIAL AND EXPERIMENTAL GRID ELEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

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

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 /USE LOWER CASE/:

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

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

DOUG YOUNG
PUBLIC AND DIGITAL SERVICES
OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES
NWS HEADQUARTERS
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IF YOU HAVE TECHNICAL QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NDFD DATA...PLEASE CONTACT:

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CHIEF...MESOSCALE PREDICTION BRANCH
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THIS INFORMATION WILL ALSO BE POSTED ON THE NWS DATA MANAGEMENT CHANGE NOTICES WEBPAGE AT /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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