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TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 06-30
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
308 PM EDT TUE MAY 9 2006

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

SUBJECT: NWS NATIONAL DIGITAL FORECAST DATABASE /NDFD/ ELEMENT FILES TO BE
SPLIT INTO SMALLER FILES ON SEPTEMBER 6 2006 /SEPTEMBER 7 LOCAL GUAM TIME/

IN THE NDFD...EACH FORECAST ELEMENT FILE CURRENTLY CONTAINS MULTIPLE
FORECAST GRIDS FOR UP TO SEVEN DAYS. ALL GRIDS ARE CREATED AND POSTED
TOGETHER AT THE SAME TIME EACH HOUR. THIS CAN PRODUCE FILES THAT ARE TOO
LARGE FOR RELIABLE DATA TRANSFERS. IT ALSO FORCES CUSTOMERS TO DOWNLOAD
UP TO SEVEN DAYS OF DATA /UP TO 12 MEGABYTE FILES/ EVEN IF THEY ARE ONLY
INTERESTED IN A SINGLE DAY OR HOUR. TO RESOLVE THESE ISSUES...NWS IS
MAKING THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:

ON SEPTEMBER 6 2006 /SEPTEMBER 7 LOCAL GUAM TIME/...GRIDS FOR DAYS ONE
THROUGH THREE AND GRIDS FOR DAYS FOUR THROUGH SEVEN WILL BE POSTED IN
SEPARATE FILES. OPERATIONAL AND EXPERIMENTAL NDFD ELEMENTS FOR ALL
DOMAINS ARE AFFECTED BY THIS CHANGE.

IF THE IMPLEMENTATION DAY IS A CRITICAL WEATHER DAY...IT MAY BE POSTPONED.
IN THAT CASE...USERS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THAT DECISION AS FAR IN ADVANCE
AS POSSIBLE.

WITH THIS CHANGE...THE ELEMENT FILES FOR DAYS FOUR THROUGH SEVEN WILL ONLY
BE UPDATED IN NDFD FOUR TIMES A DAY AT 0000 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME
/UTC/...0600 UTC...1200 UTC AND 1800 UTC. THESE FILES WILL BE POSTED AT
H+45 MINUTES RATHER THAN AT THE TOP OF THE FOLLOWING HOUR AS THEY ARE NOW.
FOR EXAMPLE...THE DAYS FOUR THROUGH SEVEN GRIDS CURRENTLY POSTED IN FILES
AT 1800 UTC WILL BE POSTED AT 1745 UTC ONCE THIS CHANGE IS IMPLEMENTED.

THE DAYS ONE THROUGH THREE NDFD ELEMENT FILES WILL CONTINUE TO BE UPDATED
HOURLY AND BE POSTED AT THE TOP OF THE HOUR AS THEY ARE NOW. FOR
EXAMPLE...DAYS ONE THROUGH THREE GRIDS CURRENTLY POSTED IN FILES AT 1800
UTC WILL CONTINUE TO BE POSTED AT 1800 UTC.

USERS OF NDFD GRAPHICS AND NDFD IN EXTENSIBLE MARKUP LANGUAGE /XML/ VIA
WEB SERVICE DO NOT NEED TO MAKE ANY CHANGES IN THE METHODS THEY CURRENTLY
USE TO VIEW OR ACQUIRE NDFD ELEMENTS AFTER THEY ARE SPLIT INTO SMALLER
FILES ON SEPTEMBER 6 2006. THE CHANGE WILL BE TRANSPARENT TO THESE

USERS...WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT DATA COVERING DAYS FOUR THROUGH SEVEN WILL ONLY BE UPDATED FOUR TIMES PER DAY.

USERS WHO PULL ANY OF THE OPERATIONAL OR EXPERIMENTAL 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...WILL NEED TO UPDATE THEIR PROCEDURES AND SCRIPTS TO ENSURE CONTINUED ACCESS TO THE OPERATIONAL AND/OR EXPERIMENTAL NDFD ELEMENTS OF INTEREST. A NEW SUBDIRECTORY TO ACCOMMODATE THE SPLIT FILES WILL BE ADDED TO THE URLS USED TO DOWNLOAD NDFD ELEMENT FILES VIA FTP. NEW WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION /WMO/ SUPERHEADINGS WILL ALSO BE IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE NDFD ELEMENT FILES AS PART OF THIS CHANGE.

MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR FTP USERS REGARDING THIS CHANGE WILL BE PROVIDED IN A FOLLOW-UP TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE /TIN/ BY JUNE 1 2006. THIS WILL INCLUDE AN EXPLICIT LIST OF ALL THE NEW FTP URLS AND WMO SUPERHEADINGS TO BE IMPLEMENTED AS OF SEPTEMBER 6 2006.

THIS IMPLEMENTATION INCLUDES NO OTHER MODIFICATIONS TO NDFD. THE FORMAT OF NDFD ELEMENT FILES REMAINS THE SAME...AS DO THE TEMPORAL AND SPATIAL RESOLUTION OF THE DATA.

RELATED NDFD WEBSITES /USE LOWER CASE FOR ALL URLS SHOWN BELOW/:

CONTENT OF AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING THE OPERATIONAL AND EXPERIMENTAL GRID ELEMENTS IN GRIDDED BINARY /GRIB2/ FORMAT:

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING WEBPAGE WILL BE UPDATED TO REFLECT SPLITTING THE ELEMENT FILES INTO TWO PARTS CONCURRENT WITH THE ISSUANCE OF THE FOLLOW-UP TIN BY JUNE 1 2006.

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

CONTENT OF AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING THE OPERATIONAL AND EXPERIMENTAL GRID ELEMENTS IN XML:

[HTTP://WEATHER.GOV/XML/](http://weather.gov/xml/)

NDFD GRAPHICS:

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

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENTS /PDDS/ FOR THE EXPERIMENTAL NDFD FORECAST ELEMENT DATA FILES AND GRAPHICS:

[HTTP://PRODUCTS.WEATHER.GOV/VIEWLISTE.PHP](http://products.weather.gov/viewliste.php)

NDFD VERIFICATION INFORMATION:

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

FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NDFD...YOU MAY EMAIL:

NWS.NDFD@NOAA.GOV

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

DAVID RUTH
CHIEF...MESOSCALE PREDICTION BRANCH
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND
EMAIL: DAVID.RUTH@NOAA.GOV

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

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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