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PNSWSH

TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 08-86  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
1245 PM EDT FRI OCT 17 2008

TO: SUBSCRIBERS:  
-FAMILY OF SERVICES  
-NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE  
-EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK  
-NOAAPORT  
OTHER NWS PARTNERS...USERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: JASON TUELL  
CHIEF...SCIENCE PLANS BRANCH  
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT: GLOBAL FORECAST SYSTEM CHANGES: EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 9 2008

EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 9 2008...BEGINNING WITH THE 1200 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/ RUN...THE FORMULATION OF THE FREEZING LEVEL WILL BE CHANGED...SEVERAL NEW PARAMETERS WILL BE ADDED TO THE GLOBAL FORECAST SYSTEM /GFS/ MODELING SYSTEM OUTPUT FILES AND A FIX WILL BE MADE TO THE CALCULATION OF PRECIPITATION TYPE.

THE FORMULATION OF THE LOWEST FREEZING LEVEL HEIGHT WILL BE CHANGED TO USE THE 2M TEMPERATURE RATHER THAN SURFACE TEMPERATURE.

THE NEW PARAMETERS INCLUDE:

WILTING POINT FIELD3  
FIELD CAPACITY FIELD

THE PRECIPITATION TYPE ALGORITHM IS BEING MODIFIED TO PREVENT EXCESSIVE SLEET PRODUCTION WHEN THERE IS TROPOPAUSE WARMING IN THE WINTER.

TEST DATA WILL BE AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWER CASE EXCEPT FOR WRF/:

[HTTP://WWWT.EMC.NCEP.NOAA.GOV/MB/WRFRETRO/GFS PARA/](http://wwwt.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mb/wrfretro/gfs_para/)

DATA DELIVERY TIMING WILL NOT BE IMPACTED BY THIS IMPLEMENTATION. THE GFS DELIVERY TIME WILL NOT CHANGE. A SMALL INCREASE IN DATA VOLUMES IS EXPECTED.

THESE CONTENT CHANGES WILL IMPACT ALL DISSEMINATION ROUTES INCLUDING NOAAPORT...THE NWS PUBLIC FILE TRANSFER PROTOCOL /FTP/ SERVER AND THE NATIONAL CENTERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PREDICTION /NCEP/ PUBLIC FTP SERVER.

NCEP ENCOURAGES ALL USERS TO ENSURE THEIR DECODERS ARE FLEXIBLE AND ARE ABLE TO ADEQUATELY HANDLE CHANGES IN CONTENT ORDER...PARAMETER FIELDS CHANGING ORDER...CHANGES IN THE SCALING FACTOR COMPONENT WITHIN THE PRODUCT DESCRIPTION SECTION /PDS/ OF THE GRIDDED BINARY /GRIB/ FILES AND ALSO ANY VOLUME CHANGES WHICH MAY BE FORTHCOMING. THESE ELEMENTS MAY

CHANGE WITH FUTURE NCEP MODEL IMPLEMENTATIONS. NCEP WILL MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO ALERT USERS TO THESE CHANGES PRIOR TO ANY IMPLEMENTATIONS.

FOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING THESE CHANGES...PLEASE CONTACT:

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OR

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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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