

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 60-20
NOVEMBER 3, 2020***

***Information Technology
TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM***

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes NDSP 60-20, *Telecommunications Program*, dated September 1, 2016. No content changes were made.

1. This directive establishes the policy for the acquisition and management of the telecommunications facilities and services needed to support the primary mission of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS). The primary mission of the NWS is to provide timely delivery of weather, hydrologic, climate forecasts, and warnings to the public, the private sector, other governmental agencies, and the global community for the protection of life and property and enhancement of the national economy.
2. The objective of the NWS Telecommunications Program is to provide cost-effective telecommunications facilities and services needed to support the NWS mission. It is the policy of the NWS to utilize telecommunications services under existing Government-wide contracts administered by the General Services Administration (GSA) whenever they offer the most cost-effective solution. The NWS may also enter into cooperative agreements, as appropriate, with other Government agencies to provide the most cost-effective telecommunications service.
3. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:
 - 3.1 The Assistant Administrator for Weather Services is responsible for ensuring appropriate allocation of available agency funds to provide the telecommunications infrastructure needed to support the NWS mission.
 - 3.2 The Office of Dissemination (DISS) is responsible for ensuring NWS compliance with Federal, Department of Commerce (DOC), and NOAA telecommunications regulations and policies.
 - 3.3 DISS is responsible for the acquisition and management of all centrally-operated national and international telecommunications networks overseen by the NWS.

3.4 DISS is responsible for providing real-time management and support to all centrally operated NWS networks.

3.5 The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) is responsible for acquiring and managing specialized telecommunications facilities needed to support all NCEP field operations.

3.6 Each Regional Headquarters office is responsible for the acquisition and management of specific regional telecommunications networks and circuits.

3.7 DISS is the overall NWS office responsible for acquisition of all telecommunications networks and circuits. All telecommunications network and circuit acquisitions shall be routed through DISS for concurrence.

3.8 Regional/NCEP Directors and DISS are responsible for ensuring that all telecommunications services are acquired in accordance with established Federal, DOC, and NOAA regulations and directives.

3.9 NWS regional and field offices are responsible for reporting telecommunications outages to the telecommunications vendor and for escalation to the DISS when recurring outages cannot be resolved at the local or regional level.

4. The effectiveness of this policy and its conformance to applicable Federal, DOC, and NOAA regulations and directives will be reviewed annually.

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