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Service Change Notice 24-19
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
630 AM EST Mon Feb 24 2025

To: Subscribers:
-NOAA Weather Wire Service
-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
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From: Dave Michaud, Director
NCEP Central Operations

Subject: GLERL Adjustment to be Disabled in URMA as Part of the obsproc v1.2.3 Upgrade: Effective on or about March 24, 2025

Effective on or about March 24, 2025, beginning with the 1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) cycle, the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) will upgrade the observations processing (i.e., obsproc) package to v1.2.3. This upgrade will result in considerable changes to UnRestricted Mesoscale Analysis (URMA) products over the Great Lakes. The changes consist of:

Disabling the generation of Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL) pseudo-observations over the Great Lakes, in URMA obs processing. This change was made following reports of a low wind speed bias in URMA analyses over Lakes Erie and Superior from the Cleveland, OH and Marquette, MI Weather Forecast Offices, respectively, that was negatively impacting National Blend of Models (NBM) forecast guidance over these regions. For consistency, the generation of all types of GLERL observations (wind, temperature, and moisture) will be disabled.

These changes do not impact the Real-Time Mesoscale Analysis (RTMA) nor its 15-minute updating counterpart, RTMA with Rapid Updates (RTMA-RU).

More information about the RTMA, URMA and RTMA-RU is available at:

https://vlab.noaa.gov/web/715073/home

Updated obsProc v1.2.3 date will be available under the corresponding model subdirectory:

https://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/obsproc/prod/

https://ftpprd.ncep.noaa.gov/data/nccf/com/obsproc/prod/

ftp://ftpprd.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/obsproc/prod/

NCEP encourages users to ensure their decoders are flexible and are able to adequately handle changes in content order, changes in the scaling factor component within the product definition section (PDS) of the

gridded binary (GRIB) files, and any volume changes that 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.

Questions, comments or requests regarding this change should be directed to the contacts below.

For questions regarding science changes, please contact:

Daryl Kleist
NCEP/EMC Modeling and Data Assimilation Branch
College Park, MD
rtma.feedback.vlab@noaa.gov

For questions regarding the data flow aspects of these data sets, please contact:

Margaret Curtis
NCEP Central Operations Dataflow Team Lead
ncep.pmb.dataflow@noaa.gov

National Service Change Notices are online at:

https://www.weather.gov/notification

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