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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
140 PM EST FRI FEB 13 2004

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: ROBERT MCLEOD  
CHIEF...AWARENESS BRANCH  
NWS OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES

SUBJECT: VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ UPDATE 2/13/04

THIS MESSAGE IS PART OF A SERIES OF UPDATE MESSAGES TO INFORM NWS PARTNERS AND CUSTOMERS OF NEW INFORMATION REGARDING THE VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ PLANNING...TESTING AND IMPLEMENTATION. VTEC INFORMATION IS POSTED ON THE NWS WEBSITE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/VTEC/](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/vtec/)

THE VTEC WEBSITE HAS BEEN REVISED AND UPDATED TO NOW INCLUDE THE JANUARY 30 2004 DRAFT OF THE NWS INSTRUCTION /NWSI/ 10-1703 FOR VTEC AND A SHORT LIST OF MILESTONES LEADING UP TO THE SCHEDULED DECEMBER 1 2004 IMPLEMENTATION OF VTEC IN NWS PRODUCTS PRODUCED AT WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES. A VTEC OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION /OTE/ IS SCHEDULED DURING JULY AND AUGUST 2004 WITH OPPORTUNITY FOR NWS PARTNER AND CUSTOMER PARTICIPATION.

FUTURE UPDATES TO THE VTEC WEB SITE WILL INCLUDE THE VTEC OTE PLAN... TEXT VERSIONS OF SAMPLE PRODUCT ISSUANCES WITH VTEC STRINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS OF THE VTEC STRINGS.

BACKGROUND...THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VTEC WAS DELAYED UNTIL DECEMBER 2004 AFTER CONSULTATION IN AUGUST 2003 WITH THE NWS PARTNERS WORKING WITH US ON VTEC IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES. A CONSENSUS WAS REACHED THAT TOO MUCH RISK EXISTED WITH A DECEMBER 2003 IMPLEMENTATION. VTEC WILL ENABLE WEATHER PROVIDERS AND VENDORS TO AUTOMATE AND TAILOR THE PRODUCT STREAM DELIVERED TO THEIR CLIENTS AND ALLOWS CUSTOMERS TO SELECT THE SPECIFIC MESSAGE TYPES THEY WANT TO RECEIVE. VTEC WILL HELP IMPROVE AUTOMATED DISSEMINATION OF WEATHER INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH A MYRIAD OF METHODS... SUCH AS PAGING SYSTEMS AND TELEVISION MESSAGE CRAWL SYSTEMS USED TO RELAY URGENT SEVERE WEATHER AND FLASH FLOOD INFORMATION. MOST EVENT-DRIVEN PRODUCTS THAT INCLUDE THE UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHIC CODE /UGC/ WILL INCLUDE THE VTEC.

WE WILL USE COMMENTS RECEIVED BY EMAIL IN VTEC DEVELOPMENT...TESTING AND IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING AND EXECUTION. TO COMMENT ON VTEC...PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL TO [NWS.VTEC@NOAA.GOV](mailto:NWS.VTEC@NOAA.GOV) /USE LOWER CASE/.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR SERVICES AND PLANNING EFFORTS.

THE NEXT VTEC UPDATE MESSAGE IS PLANNED NEAR THE END OF MARCH 2004.

NATIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

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