

NOUS41 KWBC 201430  
PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
1030 AM EDT FRI AUG 20 2004

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS  
NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWWS/ SUBSCRIBERS  
EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/  
SUBSCRIBERS  
NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS  
OTHER NWS CUSTOMERS...PARTNERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: DEIRDRE R. JONES  
CHIEF...SYSTEMS ENGINEERING CENTER  
NWS OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT: VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ AND WATCH BY COUNTY /WBC/  
OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION /OTE/

REFERENCE: [SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 04-40](#)  
[SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 04-45](#)  
[SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 04-51](#)

A COMBINED VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ AND WATCH BY COUNTY /WBC/  
OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION /OTE/ IS SCHEDULED TO RUN FROM AUGUST 30  
2004 TO OCTOBER 15 2004. TO HELP ENSURE SUFFICIENT TEST DATA...THE OTE  
WILL RUN ONE WEEK LONGER INTO OCTOBER THAN PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED. IN  
PREPARATION FOR THE OTE...ON AUGUST 26 2004...THE OFFICES PARTICIPATING IN  
THE OTE WILL TURN ON VTEC.

THIS MEANS OPERATIONAL AND TEST PRODUCTS CONTAINING EXPERIMENTAL VTEC  
STRINGS WILL BE ISSUED BY SELECTED NWS WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES /WFO/ AND  
THE STORM PREDICTION CENTER /SPC/ STARTING AUGUST 26 2004. IN  
ADDITION...ALL OFFICES PARTICIPATING IN THE VTEC OTE WILL BEGIN USING A  
SEGMENTED FORMAT FOR FLOOD WATCHES /FFA/...FLOOD WARNINGS /FLW/ AND FLOOD  
STATEMENTS /FLS/ /THIS INCLUDES FLOOD ADVISORIES/. NOTE THAT FLASH FLOOD  
WARNINGS /FFW/ AND FOLLOWUP STATEMENTS /FFS/ WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED /NON-  
SEGMENTED/ THROUGH THE OTE.

NWS OFFICES LISTED IN TABLE 1 ARE SCHEDULED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VTEC  
OTE...ND THOSE LISTED IN TABLE 2 ARE SCHEDULED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WBC  
OTE.

THE PURPOSE OF THE OTE IS TO DETERMINE THE OPERATIONS EFFECTIVENESS AND  
SUITABILITY OF SYSTEMS UNDER REALISTIC CONDITIONS AND TO DETERMINE IF  
SPECIFIED MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE OPERATION PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN  
SATISFIED. THE VTEC-WBC OTE ALSO GIVES NWS CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERS AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO CHECK SOFTWARE DECODING AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS BEFORE VTEC  
OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION.

THE OTE OF VTEC FUNCTIONALITY WILL DEMONSTRATE AND VALIDATE THE NWS  
READINESS TO RELEASE OPERATIONAL MESSAGES WITH THE VTEC STRING

IMPLEMENTED. THE OTE OF WBC FUNCTIONALITY WILL DEMONSTRATE AND VALIDATE THE NWS READINESS TO RELEASE THE WBC SUITE OF OPERATIONAL PRODUCTS.

THE VTEC-WBC OTE IS DESCRIBED IN FURTHER DETAIL IN THE VTEC-WBC OTE TEST PLAN...INCLUDING TEST OBJECTIVES...ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS AND TEST CONDUCTING AND ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES. THE VTEC-WBC OTE TEST PLAN HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE VTEC WEBSITE /URL GIVEN NEAR THE END OF THIS MESSAGE/.

TABLE 1. LIST OF VTEC OTE OFFICES:

NWS ALASKA REGION HEADQUARTERS AK /WILL ONLY ISSUE TEST PRODUCTS AND USE  
WFO ANCHORAGE COMMUNICATIONS ID/  
WFO FLAGSTAFF AZ  
WFO PHOENIX AZ  
WFO SAN DIEGO CA  
WFO JACKSONVILLE FL  
WFO MELBOURNE FL  
WFO TALLAHASSEE FL  
WFO TAMPA BAY AREA FL  
NWS PACIFIC REGION HEADQUARTERS HI /WILL ONLY ISSUE TEST PRODUCTS AND USE  
WFO HONOLULU COMMUNICATIONS ID/  
WFO DES MOINES IA  
WFO BOISE ID  
WFO DETROIT MI  
WFO PHILADELPHIA PA/MOUNT HOLLY NJ  
WFO LAS VEGAS NV  
WFO CHARLESTON SC  
WFO CHEYENNE WY  
WFO RIVERTON WY

TABLE 2. LIST OF WBC OTE OFFICES:

WFO BOISE ID  
WFO WICHITA KS  
WFO LAKE CHARLES LA  
WFO KANSAS CITY/PLEASANT HILL MO  
WFO ST. LOUIS MO  
WFO SPRINGFIELD MO  
WFO BILLINGS MT  
WFO GLASGOW MT  
WFO GREAT FALLS MT  
WFO NEWPORT/MOREHEAD CITY NC  
WFO RALEIGH NC  
WFO WILMINGTON NC  
WFO NORMAN OK  
STORM PREDICTION CENTER /SPC/ NORMAN OK  
WFO CHARLESTON SC  
WFO COLUMBIA SC  
WFO FORT WORTH TX  
WFO HOUSTON/GALVESTON TX

AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE OTE...THERE WILL BE A JOINT NWS/NWS PARTNER ASSESSMENT OF VTEC. A PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT WITH THE FINAL IMPLEMENTATION DECISION FOR VTEC WILL BE ISSUED BY NOVEMBER 9 2004.

VTEC IS DESCRIBED IN FURTHER DETAIL IN NWS INSTRUCTION 10-1703 AVAILABLE ON THE NWS DIRECTIVES WEBSITE AND THROUGH A LINK ON THE VTEC WEBSITE. MORE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON VTEC AND WBC CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT THESE WEBSITES /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OS/VTEC](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/vtec)  
[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OS/WATCH/](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/watch/)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON VTEC-WBC OTE OR THE NWS IMPLEMENTATION OF VTEC...PLEASE CONTACT:

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IF YOU HAVE WBC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS... PLEASE CONTACT:

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THIS AND OTHER VTEC UPDATE NOTICES ARE POSTED ON THE VTEC WEBPAGE SHOWN ABOVE.

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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