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PNSWSH

Public Information Statement, Comment Request  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
1105 AM EST Tue Jan 22 2013

To:           Subscribers:  
              -Family of Services  
              -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
              -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
              -NOAAPort  
              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From:         John Derber, Acting Chief  
              Global Climate and Weather Modeling Branch  
              NCEP/Environmental Modeling Center

Subject: Soliciting Public Comments through February 20, 2013, on the  
Removal of NCEP's Legacy Global Forecast System (GFS) Low-Resolution  
Products

The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) is proposing to  
stop producing some legacy low-resolution gridded products from the Global  
Forecast System (GFS), and stop disseminating them via NOAAPort and the  
NWS ftp server. The NWS is seeking comments on this proposed change  
through February 20, 2013.

The operational GFS model is currently run at a resolution of T574L64,  
approximately 27 km. Today, output is made available from the GFS on  
grids ranging in resolution from 5km up to 5 degrees latitude/longitude.  
Many of these legacy low-resolution grids are available for limited  
forecast hours and fields, and are not produced for all cycles of the GFS.  
The same information is provided on finer-resolution grids. In addition,  
many of these products have been removed from the NCEP file transfer  
protocol (FTP) server and are only distributed via NOAAPort and the NWS  
FTP server. Removing these legacy products will free up computing and  
network resources for newer products.

Operational GFS output is distributed via NOAAPort, the NWS FTP server,  
the NOAA Operational Model Archive and Distribution System (NOMADS) system  
(<http://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov>) and the NCEP FTP server. Output is  
available from 00-192 hours every three hours and from 204-384 hours every  
12 hours for the 0000 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), 0600 UTC, 1200  
UTC, 1800 UTC cycle times. Output is available on multiple resolutions  
and output grids, including 0.5 degree, 1.0 degree and 2.5 degree grids.  
A catalogue of GFS output products and their availability on multiple ftp  
servers can be found at:

<http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/products/>

Listed below are the gridded products available on NOAAPort and the NWS  
ftp server that NCEP is proposing to remove.

Grid	Resolution	Area	Map Projection
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Family of Service (FOS) grids:			
#21	5x2.5	0-180E, 0-90N	latitude/longitude
#22	5x2.5	180W-0, 0-90N	latitude/longitude
#23	5x2.5	0-180E, 90S-0	latitude/longitude
#24	5x2.5	180W-0, 90S-0	latitude/longitude
#25	5x5	0-355E, 0-90N	latitude/longitude
#26	5x5	0-355E, 90S-0	latitude/longitude

Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) grids:

#201	381 km	N. Hemisphere	Polar Stereographic
#202	190.5 km	CONUS	Polar Stereographic
#203	190.5 km	Alaska	Polar Stereographic
#204	160 km	Hawaii	Mercator
#205	190.5 km	Puerto Rico	Polar Stereographic

World Area Forecast System (WAFS) grids -- only the 00 UTC cycle grids for hours 96 through 168 are proposed for removal:

#37	1.25x1.25	0-90N, 330-60E	latitude/longitude
#39	1.25x1.25	0-90N, 150-240E	latitude/longitude
#40	1.25x1.25	0-90N, 240-330E	latitude/longitude

The AWIPS grid #201 products are available on NOAAPort in both Gridded Binary one (GRIB1) and Gridded Binary two (GRIB2) format, and both are proposed for removal. More information about the model grids listed above is available at:

<http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/docs/on388/tableb.html>

World Meteorological Organization (WMO) headers for these products slated for removal are listed at:

[http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/changes/docs/gfs\\_legacy\\_remove.shtml](http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/changes/docs/gfs_legacy_remove.shtml)

In addition to being available on NOAAPort, many of these grids are available on the NWS FTP server at:

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/MT.mrf CY.00/RD.yyyymmdd/PT.grid DF.bb/>

and

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/MT.gfs CY.zz/RD.yyyymmdd/PT.grid DF.bb/>

where yyyymmdd is the 4-digit year, 2-digit month, and 2-digit day, and zz is the 2-digit model cycle.

NWS will evaluate all comments to determine whether to proceed with this change. If approved, a Service Change Notice (SCN) will be issued giving 30 days' notice of the implementation date.

Please send comments on this proposal to:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

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