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Public Information Notice 17-02 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPORT
 Other NWS partners and NWS employees

From: William Bauman
 Chief, Aviation and Space Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Soliciting Comments on Proposed Changes to the Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) Augmentation and Backup Responsibilities in Alaska and Pacific Regions through March 6, 2017

Note: The following changes have no impact on NOAA Weather Wire Service subscribers.

Updated to extend the comment period to March 6, 2017.

NWS personnel currently only augment ASOS when the field is non-attended between 0000 and 0600 Alaska Standard Time (AKST). At 0600, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Flight Service Station (FSS) personnel take over augmentation and backup responsibility. NWS will terminate all NWS augmentation/backup at Cold Bay, AK as originally planned on March 1, 2017. FAA FSS personnel are certified and ready to take over augmentation responsibility during the hours the field is attended. NWS also will terminate NWS augmentation/backup at McGrath, St. Paul and Yakutat, AK, on midnight shifts (0000-0800 AKST) on March 1, 2017, since the fields are non-attended during those hours. When the fields are attended, NWS personnel will provide augmentation and backup services between 0800-1600 AKST until March 15, 2017

NWS is working through a formal agreement with the FAA to transition ASOS augmentation and backup responsibilities in Alaska and Pacific Regions. Included in this transition is the discontinuation of any and all NWS backup of Service Level D airports. Per FAA regulations (FAA JO 7900.C), there is no requirement for augmentation and back up of ASOS at Service Level D locations.

The NWS Weather Service Offices in the Alaska Region and some offices in the Pacific Region currently augment and backup observations for ASOS units, per an FAA-NWS Memorandum of Understanding, dated September 2002. At the end of 2014, the FAA assumed general oversight of the aviation surface observation program and moved the entire contiguous U.S. (CONUS) aviation weather surface observing program under FAA policies. The remaining NWS locations that have yet to transition to FAA oversight are located in NWS Alaska and Pacific Regions. Once this transition is

complete, all United States observing will fall under FAA policy and regulations.

The proposed timeline below may change slightly, but the NWS wants to ensure air carriers have advanced notice so they can become familiar with the Non-Federal Weather Observation (NF-OBS) Program. The NF-OBS Program is a voluntary program for non-Federal entities to provide or augment weather observation services addressed in FAA Order JO 7900.5. Additionally, Order JO 7210.77 has been created to provide guidance for NF-OBS weather observing procedures and practices. Non-Federal entities, such as fixed-base operators, airports, state and local governments, and private businesses (NF-OBS Sponsors) provide the resources necessary to ensure the performance of this aviation service. Follow the link below for the complete order (JO 7210.77) issued December 19, 2016:

https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Order/JO_7210.77_Signed.pdf

Timeline of proposed changes and transition of services to the FAA:

- January 30, 2017: NWS ceases any augmentation and backup for Annette, AK which has no Service level.

- March 15, 2017: NWS ceases augmentation at all Service Level D airports in NWS Alaska and Pacific Regions and FAA assumes responsibility during FAA facility operating hours at Barrow, Cold Bay, and McGrath, AK). Those locations include:

Alaska: Barrow, Cold Bay, McGrath, St. Paul and Yakutat.

Pacific: Hilo and Lihue, HI, between the hours of 2200 to 2400 HST when they revert to Service Level D.

June 1 2017: NWS ceases augmentation at the following sites and FAA assumes responsibility during FAA facility operating hours:

Pacific Region: Hilo and Lihue, HI and Guam which are Service Level C sites.

Alaska: Service Level A: Bethel.

Service Level B: King Salmon, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Nome.

Below is a chart summarizing the changes in coverage as the FAA takes over the ASOS augmentation. Times shown are in AKST:

Location	FAA Hours	NWS Hours	Gap (Upon NWS Closure)
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Bethel	1600-0000	0100-1700	0000-1600
King Salmon	1600-0000	0100-1700	0000-1600
Kodiak	N/A	0100-1700	0000-2359
Kotzebue	0700-2400	0000-0700	0000-0700
Nome	0700-2300	0000-0700	2300-0700

If you have comments or questions regarding this Public Information Statement, please contact:

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