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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 11-20  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
1012 AM EDT Thu May 12 2011

To:           Subscribers:  
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From:        Cynthia Abelman, Chief  
              Aviation Services Branch

Subject: Discontinuance of the Experimental Second Generation National Convective Weather Forecast (NCWF-2): Effective June 16, 2011

Effective Thursday June 16, 2011, at 0000 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Aviation Weather Center (AWC) will discontinue production and dissemination of the experimental second generation National Convective Weather Forecast (NCWF-2). The current operational first generation National Convective Weather Forecast (NCWF) product will continue to be available.

NCWF-2 is a probabilistic convective forecast developed through the Federal Aviation Administration Aviation Weather Research Program's Convective Weather Product Development Team. NCWF-2 is currently available only via a direct feed from the AWC in gridded binary version one (GRIB1) format using the following experimental headers:

ZDA98 KPCI  
ZDB98 KPCI  
ZDC98 KPCI  
ZDD98 KPCI  
ZUZA98 KPCI  
ZDIA98 KPCI  
ZMZA98 KPCI

and in Binary Universal Form for the Representation of meteorological data (BUFR) format under JSAT98 KPCI.

Over the past several years, NCWF-2 has been considered for transition from experimental to operational status. As part of this transition process, detailed objective assessments of the forecast quality and performance have been completed. Results of the assessments indicated insufficient reliability and resolution for operational implementation.

Since there are no plans to modify or improve NCWF-2 to achieve operational suitability, and the hardware and software technologies supporting the production of NCWF-2 are becoming obsolete, NWS will discontinue the NCWF-2.

If you have any questions about this change, please contact:

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