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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 18-43
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1010 AM EDT Tue Apr 24 2018

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

From: Mark Tew
 Chief, Analysis and Mission Support Division

Subject: Changes to City Name for Barrow, AK: Effective for NWS Products and Services on or about August 15, 2018

The name of Barrow, AK, changed to Utqiagvik, AK, effective December 1, 2016, following an order signed by the Lieutenant Governor of Alaska changing the name of the municipality. Due to the extensive coordination and planning required by the weather enterprise to successfully complete this change, the official date of change for most NWS products and services for the city name change will be on or about August 15, 2018. Major points to be aware of for NWS products and services:

- Area Forecast Discussion text products will reference Utqiagvik, AK, instead of Barrow, AK.
- Alaska Temperature and Precipitation Bulletin will reference Utqiagvik, AK, instead of Barrow, AK under the Alaska Temperature Extremes.
- NWS Alaska TV Weather Program graphics, audio and visual products will reference Utqiagvik, AK, instead of Barrow, AK.
- All NWS Alaska social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube will reference the community of Utqiagvik, AK, instead of Barrow, AK.
- The "Local forecast by City, State or Zip code" search box located on NWS Alaska webpages and the city names displayed on geo-referenced maps throughout NWS Alaska webpages are not managed by the NWS. NWS is actively working with this service provider to effect the name change.
- The Location Description displayed on forecasts accessed by clicking on a point on the interactive web maps is dependent upon city names as officially documented on a periodic basis by the U.S. Census Bureau. The NWS is actively working with the Census Bureau to effect this update.
- The NOAA Weather Radio transmitter call sign will remain unchanged as KZZ53; however, the webpage will be updated to reflect the city name change:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/coverage/site2.php?State=AKNC&Site=KZZ53>

The following elements will not be impacted and will remain unchanged:

- Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) code associated with North Slope Borough
- Universal Geographic Code by County (UGC-C)
- NWS Public Forecast Zone Name
- NWS Fire Weather Zone Names and Numbers
- Official name of the NWS Weather Service Office (WSO) Barrow
- Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAF) Location Identifier of PABR

Based on the above information, all NWS partners and users receiving NWS products and parsing exact text strings will need to change Barrow, AK, to Utqiagvik, AK, in their software and systems operations.

In the event August 15, 2018 is declared a Critical Weather Day (CWD) or significant weather is occurring, or forecast to occur, in or near Utqiagvik, AK, implementation of this NWS change will occur at 1600 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) on the next weekday not declared a CWD Day and when no significant weather is occurring in or near Utqiagvik, AK.

Additional details on the upcoming changes will be posted on the Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Fairbanks homepage at:

www.weather.gov/afg/

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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