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Service Change Notice 18-89 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1025 AM EDT Fri Mar 22 2019

To: Subscribers:
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 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
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From: Mark B. Miller
 Director, Surface and Upper Air Division
 Office of Observations

Subject: Updated: Transition of Manual Radiosonde Observations to
Automated Radiosonde Observations at Barrow, AK, on February 12, 2019

Updated to provide date of transition and to provide location coordinates
of the new release point of sufficiently small distance (e.g., 4.6 miles)
to not require additional notice.

Effective February 12, 2019, NWS transitioned from manually launched
radiosonde observations (RAOB) at Barrow, AK, World Meteorological
Organization (WMO) # 70026, Station ID PABR, to automatically launched
observations from a new location 4.6 miles northeast of the legacy
release point.

The new release point for the NWS soundings at Barrow:

WMO #	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation
70026	71.32267N	156.61784W	8.4 Meters

The radiosonde type changed from the Vaisala 1680 MHz RS92 radiosonde to
the Vaisala 403 MHz RS41-SGP radiosonde.

Messages from the Vaisala Autosonde currently do not contain the
following components: Freezing Level Data (RADAT), High Resolution Binary
Universal Form for the Representation of meteorological data (BUFR),
National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) archive format. A
software update will be implemented in 2019 that will produce these data.

For additional information on the message requirements, see WMO 306
Manual on Codes (International Codes):

- Volume I.1 Part A - Alphanumeric Codes
- Volume I.2 Part B - Binary Codes
- Volume II Regional Codes and National Coding Practices (WMO Region IV)

A follow up Service Change Notice will be issued when the above stated software update is implemented and the Autosonde RAOB products contain the RADAT, High Res BUFR, and NCEI archive format components.

If you have questions or feedback, please contact:

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