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PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 02-31  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
220 PM EST MON OCT 28 2002

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS  
NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWS/ SUBSCRIBERS  
EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/  
SUBSCRIBERS  
NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS  
OTHER NWS PARTNERS...CUSTOMERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: ESTHER ATKINS  
CHIEF...INTEGRATED OPERATIONS BRANCH

SUBJECT: NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE EXPERIMENTAL NATIONAL DIGITAL FORECAST  
DATABASE...EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 2 2002

AN EXPERIMENTAL VERSION OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/ NATIONAL  
DIGITAL DATABASE /NDFD/ WILL BE AVAILABLE BEGINNING DECEMBER 2 2002. THIS  
EXPERIMENTAL VERSION OF THE NDFD IS BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO 1) ALLOW HIGH  
VOLUME USERS TO GET A FEEL FOR THE SPECIFICS OF THE DATABASE /FTP  
LOCATION...FORMAT...GEOGRAPHIC SECTORS...WEATHER FORECAST ELEMENTS...ETC./  
AND 2) TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK FROM THOSE USERS ON POTENTIAL REFINEMENTS TO  
THE NDFD. BE CAUTIONED THAT THE NDFD IS PRESENTLY EXPERIMENTAL AND IS NOT  
INTENDED FOR REDISTRIBUTION OR OPERATIONAL USE AT THIS TIME.

WHEN THE NDFD BECOMES OPERATIONAL...IT WILL ALLOW THE NWS TO PROVIDE NEAR-  
REAL TIME...COORDINATED FORECASTS THAT ARE WIDELY ACCESSIBLE IN A GRIDDED  
FORMAT. THIS GRIDDED FORMAT /VERSION 2 GRIDDED BINARY /GRIB2// CAN BE  
READILY DECODED FOR THOSE THAT WISH TO CREATE DERIVED PRODUCTS FROM THE  
FORECAST PARAMETERS/VALUES CONTAINED WITHIN THE NDFD.

INITIALLY...THE EXPERIMENTAL NDFD WILL MAKE AVAILABLE DATA FOR TWO SECTORS  
WITHIN THE CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES /CONUS/ AT A SPATIAL RESOLUTION OF 5  
KILOMETERS. DATA FROM ADDITIONAL SECTORS WILL BE ADDED TO THE NDFD  
PERIODICALLY UNTIL THE DATABASE IS FULLY POPULATED. FILES WILL CONTAIN  
FORECASTS FOR DAYTIME MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE...NIGHTTIME MINIMUM  
TEMPERATURE...PROBABILITY OF PRECIPITATION /POP12/...SURFACE  
TEMPERATURE...DEW POINT TEMPERATURE...SKY COVER...WIND DIRECTION AND WIND  
SPEED...OUT TO SEVEN DAYS. UPDATES TO THE NDFD WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE AT  
THE TOP OF EACH HOUR. FORECAST GRIDS FOR THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS WILL BE  
INTRODUCED DAILY AT 1800 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/.

FILES FOR THE MID-ATLANTIC SECTOR WILL CONTAIN FORECAST MOSAICS OVER THE COUNTY WARNING AREAS OF THE FOLLOWING SIX NWS WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES /WFOS/ IN THE EASTERN UNITED STATES:

FFC - ATLANTA GEORGIA  
GSP - GREENVILLE/SPARTANBURG SOUTH CAROLINA  
JKL - JACKSON KENTUCKY  
MRX - KNOXVILLE/TRI CITIES TENNESSEE  
RLX - CHARLESTON WEST VIRGINIA  
RNK - BLACKSBURG VIRGINIA

FILES FOR THE CENTRAL PLAINS SECTOR WILL CONTAIN FORECAST MOSAICS OVER THE COUNTY WARNING AREAS OF THE FOLLOWING SEVEN NWS WFOS IN THE CENTRAL UNITED STATES:

EAX - KANSAS CITY/PLEASANT HILL MISSOURI  
ICT - WICHITA KANSAS  
OAX - OMAHA NEBRASKA  
OUN - OKLAHOMA CITY/NORMAN OKLAHOMA  
SGF - SPRINGFIELD MISSOURI  
TOP - TOPEKA KANSAS  
TSA - TULSA OKLAHOMA

MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE CONTENT OF THESE FILES AND FTP INSTRUCTIONS CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE URL LISTED BELOW /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/DATAMGMT/DOC/NDFDINDEX.HTML](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/datamgmt/doc/ndfdindex.html)

A CUSTOMER FEEDBACK SURVEY FORM FOR THE NDFD CAN BE FOUND ON THE OFFICE OF SERVICES NATIONAL CATALOGUE OF NWS PRODUCTS WEBPAGE...ACCESSIBLE VIA THE URL ABOVE. UNTIL THE FORM IS MADE INTERACTIVE...RESPONSES SHOULD BE E-MAILED TO:

[NWSPRODUCTS@NOAA.GOV](mailto:NWSPRODUCTS@NOAA.GOV)

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS NOTICE...PLEASE CONTACT:

ESTHER ATKINS  
CHIEF - INTEGRATED OPERATIONS BRANCH  
NWS HEADQUARTERS  
OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES  
EMAIL: [ESTHER.ATKINS@NOAA.GOV](mailto:ESTHER.ATKINS@NOAA.GOV)

IF YOU HAVE TECHNICAL QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NDFD DATA...PLEASE CONTACT:

DAVID RUTH  
CHIEF - MESOSCALE PREDICTION BRANCH  
NWS HEADQUARTERS  
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
EMAIL: [DAVID.RUTH@NOAA.GOV](mailto:DAVID.RUTH@NOAA.GOV)

THIS INFORMATION IS ALSO POSTED ON THE NWS DATA MANAGEMENT CHANGE NOTICES  
WEBPAGE AT THE URL LISTED BELOW /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/DATAMGMT/NOTICES.SHTML](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/datamgmt/notices.shtml)

NATIONAL TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

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