

NOUS41 KWBC 281050 AAA  
PNSWSH

Technical Implementation Notice 12-45 Amended  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
650 AM EDT Fri Sep 28 2012

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

From:         Timothy McClung  
              Chief, Science Plans Branch  
              Office of Science and Technology

Subject: Amended: Addition of Alaska Region NPP VIIRS Imagery to NOAAPort  
Test Channel: Effective October 10, 2012

Amended to reschedule the implementation to Wednesday, October 10, 2012,  
to allow for additional testing.

On or about Wednesday, October 10, 2012, beginning approximately 1500  
Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), high resolution imagery from the Suomi  
National Polar-Orbiting Partnership (NPP) satellite will be broadcast  
across the NOAAPort Satellite Broadcast Network (SBN). This addition will  
consist of a limited set of NPP Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite  
(VIIRS) imagery covering the Alaska region. The imagery stream will be  
provided by the NOAA National Environmental Satellite, Data, and  
Information Service (NESDIS) NPP Data Exploitation (NDE) system, based on  
NPP VIIRS imagery Environmental Data Records (EDRs).

The new NPP VIIRS imagery products will be transmitted across a test  
channel of the NOAAPort SBN:

-Digital Video Broadcast (DVB) packet identifier: 105  
-Multicast address: 224.0.1.5  
-Port number: 1205  
-SBN Data Stream field setting in their frame-level headers: 7

NWS anticipates this NOAAPort channel will be populated with additional  
polar-orbiting satellite imagery. For clarity, this channel will be  
referred to as the POLARSAT. The Alaska region NPP VIIRS imagery will, in  
general, be within the following latitude-longitude box:

Lower/Southern Latitude: 45 degrees North Upper/Northern Latitude: 75  
degrees North  
Left/Western Longitude: 120 degrees East Right/Eastern Longitude: 120  
degrees West

This initial set of imagery products will be based on three NPP VIIRS I  
channels, the horizontal resolution of which, at nadir, is approximately

375 meters.

The imagery products will be formatted in netCDF4, but compressed via gzip. Like all NOAAPort products, each file will have a plain text World Meteorological Organization (WMO) heading at its start. These headings are listed below.

TIPB01 KNES - Imagery Channel 1 (0.64um)  
TIPB04 KNES - Imagery Channel 4 (3.74um)  
TIPB05 KNES - Imagery Channel 5 (11.45um)

The "P" in the third character place of the WMO Heading distinguishes this NPP-VIIRS imagery from pre-existing NOAAPort satellite imagery.

To access these products, users should take the following steps:

- Read beyond or strip off the WMO heading.
- Decompress the resulting product, e.g., via gunzip.
- Use a netCDF4 reader, e.g., a decoder that invokes the Unidata netCDF4 software package.

Each product will consist of one granule of VIIRS imagery for a single channel. The VIIRS granules will cover approximately 86 seconds of data, roughly 5 degrees or 556 kilometers of along-track geographical extent.

Unlike existing NOAAPort satellite imagery, formatted on prescribed maps, each NPP VIIRS imagery granule will be uniquely located. Geolocation information is contained in each product file. The geolocation information consists of three 1541-dimension arrays of latitude/longitude pairs that correspond to the granule edge (first column), granule centerline, and granule edge (last column), with all three arrays oriented along the satellite track.

Given the fixed resolution and gridded Ground Track Mercator representation of the VIIRS imagery, only these three columns of geographical information (latitudes and longitudes) are required to map the imagery. This reduced geolocation information can be interpreted based on the VIIRS Ground Track Mercator imagery algorithm (fine 375 meter resolution version) for accurate georeferencing. Related information (though not specific to the NOAAPort stream of NPP VIIRS imagery) can be found in the following document: "Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) Operational Algorithm Description (OAD) Document for VIIRS Ground Track Mercator (GTM) Imagery Environmental Data Record (EDR) Software," Revision A, January 18, 2012, (e.g., section 2.0.4).

The NOAAPort feed of NPP VIIRS imagery is provided across a test channel of the SBN. This NOAAPort channel is under test and evaluation. Product availability across this channel is nonetheless expected to approach or meet that of operational/baseline data (i.e., greater than 95% data availability). If the experimental period is successful, NWS intends to transition this NOAAPort stream to full operational posture in early 2013.

For questions regarding the scientific or technical content of the  
NOAAPort NPP VIIRS imagery feed, please contact:

ESPC Help Desk  
Suitland, MD  
Phone: 301-817-3880  
Email: [espcoperations@noaa.gov](mailto:espcoperations@noaa.gov)

For questions regarding the NOAAPort activation or distribution of these  
data sets, please contact:

Brian Gockel  
NOAA/NWS Office of Science and Technology  
Phone: 301-713-0304, x 158  
Email: [brian.gockel@noaa.gov](mailto:brian.gockel@noaa.gov)

National Technical Implementation Notices are online at:

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

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