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Technical Implementation Notice 12-54
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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From: Jay Lawrimore
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 National Climatic Data Center

Subject: Rounding Algorithm Revision for the Hourly02 and Daily01
Products: Effective December 1, 2012

Effective Tuesday, December 1, 2012, at approximately 1500 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), The National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) will change the rounding algorithm used for the hourly02 (CRNH02) and daily01 (CRND01) products. These revisions will affect some of the reported negative values for stations of the U.S. Climate Reference Network (USCRN) and the U.S. Historical Climatology Network-Modernization (USHCN-M).

Prior to September 2012, USCRN used symmetric half-up (away from zero) rounding for processing and publishing data; however, to align with the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO's) requirement to use asymmetric half-up rounding in important meteorological summaries and the recommendations of the National Data Stewardship Team (NDST), USCRN has switched to using asymmetric half-up rounding for internal data processing. To finalize the transition to asymmetric half-up rounding, USCRN's data product software will also switch to using the new rounding algorithm.

Users of the hourly02 or daily01 products should expect to see some of the previously reported negative values change by 0.1 in the positive direction (towards zero). This change of rounding algorithm will not affect the file formats of the two products. Prior versions of both products will remain available through the snapshot zip files that are produced weekly.

More details on the rounding practices recommended by the National Data Stewardship Team can be found at

http://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/uscrn/documentation/program/NDST_Rounding_Advice.pdf

If you have questions or feedback, please contact:

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