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PNSWSH

Technical Implementation Notice 15-05 Updated  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
300 PM EST Thu Mar 9 2017

To:           Subscribers:  
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From:         Edward P. Clark  
              Director, National Water Center  
              Deputy Director, Office of Water Prediction  
              NOAA National Weather Service

Subject: Updated: Modification of the National Operational Hydrologic  
Remote Sensing Center, (Now the Office of Water Prediction (OWP))  
Prototype Gridded Snowfall Analysis Product: Effective March 15, 2017

Updated to amend the 2015 Technical Implementation Notice to reflect the  
modified OWP gridded Snowfall Analysis.

Effective 1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) Wednesday, March 15, 2017,  
the OWP in Chanhassen, MN, will change the prototype analysis of snowfall  
observations displayed on its interactive website.

These products are currently viewable at:

[http://www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/snowfall\\_v2](http://www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/snowfall_v2)

Beginning March 15, 2015, they may also be viewed by connecting to the  
NOHRSC Interactive Snow Information page at:

<http://www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/interactive/html/map.html> and selecting from  
the "Select Physical Element" drop-down item "Interpolated Snowfall (SF)  
(24-hours)," "Interpolated SF (48-hours)" or "Interpolated SF (72-hours)."

The current version of the analysis is generated by interpolating  
observations of 24-hour snowfall accumulations at point locations over the  
coterminous United States (CONUS), taken primarily from Cooperative  
observers, Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS)  
observers and NWS spotter reports. The interpolation method is a Barnes  
2-pass analysis performed for 1200 UTC each day at a resolution of 0.04  
degrees (144 arc sec). The products originally included a 0000 UTC  
analysis, but this was discontinued due to its poor quality.

The modified products are built upon a 24-hour background analysis based  
on Stage IV quantitative precipitation estimates (QPE), with contributions  
from High Resolution Rapid Refresh (HRRR) and Rapid Refresh (RAP)  
quantitative precipitation forecasts, National Snow Analysis (NSA) 2-meter  
air temperature grids, and a new gridded snowfall-to-liquid ratio

climatology. Snowfall observations are assimilated into this background analysis via ordinary kriging. The addition of a background analysis produces a spatial distribution of snowfall that improves upon the previous version, particularly in the Western United States.

Improved automated quality control of station reports has been implemented for the modified analysis, and a new method for accurately subdividing snowfall observations into hourly amounts has made a 0000 UTC analysis possible. Consequently, the modified analysis is performed for 24-hour periods ending on both 0000 UTC and 1200 UTC each day. The first issuance of the analysis is generated about an hour after a given analysis time, then repeated hourly for at least 72 hours following the analysis time so the products can benefit from late-arriving observations and improvements in the QPE input to the background analysis.

The modified analysis uses the same 0.04 degree (144 arc sec) spatial resolution as the previous version. The same file formats (NetCDF, GeoTIFF, and GRIB2), projections and accumulation periods (24-, 48-, and 72-hour, plus seasonal) that were available previously will be available for the modified analysis; however, some changes to file naming conventions will occur. As before, all accumulations for periods exceeding 24 hours are produced by aggregating 24-hour analyses; i.e., no independent 48- or 72-hour-or seasonal-analyses are performed.

For questions regarding these changes, please contact:

Greg Fall  
Office of Water Prediction  
Chanhassen, MN  
Email: [gregory.fall@noaa.gov](mailto:gregory.fall@noaa.gov)

or

David Soroka  
NWS Winter Weather Program Leader  
Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch  
Silver Spring, MD  
Email: [david.doroka@noaa.gov](mailto:david.doroka@noaa.gov)

National Technical Implementation Notices are online at:

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