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Technical Implementation Notice 15-49 Amended
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From: Terrance J. Clark
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Subject: WSR-88D Volume Coverage Pattern Changes Tentatively Scheduled to Deploy in Mid-October 2017

Amended scheduled deployment date to mid-October 2017.

In WSR-88D Radar Data Acquisition (RDA)/Radar Product Generation (RPG) Software Build 18.0, 4 current Volume Coverage Patterns (VCPs) will be eliminated. These VCPs are 11, 211, 21 and 221. They will be replaced with a new pattern, VCP 215. VCPs 12, 212, 121, 31 and 32 will remain in the system. The Build 18.0 Beta Test is tentatively scheduled for mid-October 2017, with full deployment following during the winter.

VCP 215 will include the same elevation angles as VCPs 12/212 below 10 degrees, and the same angles as VCPs 11/211 above 10 degrees. The data quality will be comparable to VCP 21, and the completion time of VCP 215 will be approximately six minutes. AVSET and one SAILS cut will be operator selectable with VCP 215. VCP 215 will be ideal for general weather surveillance and during light precipitation events.

In addition, another new VCP will be introduced for use during clear-air or winter precipitation. VCP 35 will include the same elevation angles up to 6.4 degrees as those used by VCPs 12/212/215. VCP 35 will complete in approximately seven minutes and one SAILS cut will be operator selectable.

These VCPs share a common set of elevation angles with severe weather VCPs 12/212, increase the elevation coverage over the current suite of routine surveillance patterns, and provide SZ-2 Doppler processing for the split cut elevations.

More information on the VCP changes is available:

http://www.roc.noaa.gov/WSR88D/PublicDocs/NewTechnology/New_VCPParadigm_Public_Oct_2015.pdf

Sample data sets of VCP 35 and VCP 215 are available on the Radar Operations Center's New Technologies website:

<http://www.roc.noaa.gov/WSR88D/NewRadarTechnology/NewTechDefault.aspx>

For more information, please contact:

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National Technical Implementation Notices are online at:

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

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