

Comments the NWS Received Following the Release of:

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT... COMMENT REQUEST
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
1250 PM EST WED JUN 30 2010

SUBJECT: SOLICITING COMMENTS BY AUGUST 6 2010 ON PLANS TO CEASE
DISSEMINATING WSR-88D LOW RESOLUTION BASE PRODUCTS VIA
SBN/NOAAPORT AND RPPCDS: EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1 2010

REFER TO: TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE /TIN/ 09-41...DATED
NOVEMBER 25 2009

COMMENT: Yank 'em all at once. Let's get this over with. I have completely transitioned to the new high-res products and 7 months of wasted bandwidth is long enough! Not to mention all the notices that have gone out telling of its imminent demise.

COMMENT: I would like to put in a request to delay the low-res product plan beyond December 1, 2010. As the program manager of xxxxxxxx, I have seen emergency managers and other public safety officials struggle with new products, and the 8-bit products are no different. Also, since we only received access (and created a way to display the data in our software) at the beginning of 2010, there has not been sufficient time to study how 8-bit single-color-table display (created by NWS) handles winter weather, compared with the separate 4-bit color tables for clear air vs. precip modes (which is what the EMs are used to). While I believe that severe weather is easier to pick out using 8-bit, it will still take some time for the EMs to grow accustomed to the new products.

PRODUCTS NEEDED: BREF 1-4 and BVEL 1-2. Unfortunately, we do not have an end date at this time, since these are the products that our emergency managers are used to seeing/relying upon and we will not get all through training until approximately two years from now. Our IT department is trying to work on color tables that mimic the look of the 4-bit products, but they don't know when this will be ready.

RESPONSE: Page 1-2 of the Product Specification Interface Control Document (2620003N), available at: <http://www.roc.noaa.gov/WSR88D/Program/ICDs.aspx>, details how the clear air and precipitation 4-bit color scales are constructed (relevant page attached). This information could be used to continue providing colors the way users want them. We can provide you the 8-bit color scales the NWS uses if needed. Note, the commenter stated they could work around the end date the NWS is proposing.

COMMENT:

Does the notification below mean that products such as the one at:
http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ridge/lite/NOR/AMX_0.png and others...will go away on December 1st?

If so, will there be any static graphic format around to replace it (i.e. in a GIF, BMP, PNG, JPG, etc... format)?

RESPONSE: The RIDGE project will continue to produce products like the example you sent. Beginning in spring 2011, RIDGE will use the higher resolution 8-bit data (versus 4-bit) to make these products.

COMMENT: The xxxxxx uses these products. It will take a fair amount of time (exceeding the Dec 1 date) in order to make the changes necessary to incorporate the new products into our system to have the single site radar continue to be available in our system.

PRODUCTS NEEDED: "SDUS51 N0R BASE REFLECTIVITY 19/R 16LVL 0.5DEG DS.P19R0" through the end of 2011.

RESPONSE: This product will be kept until February 2012.

COMMENT:

Does this mean that 4-bit Level III products will no longer be collected and stored at Ashville and be available on the RPCCDS?

RESPONSE: Correct. Once the 4-bit products are not centrally collected and distributed in real time, they will not be archived at NCDC or be available on the RPCCDS.

COMMENT:

Based on the NWS document TIN 09-041 I understand that NOAA will no longer provide or make available the lower resolution base reflectivity products identified in the document effective December 1, 2010 through NOAAPort or RPCCDS. Although I understand and support your move to higher quality, higher resolution products I am concerned with the relatively short time in which FAA Flight Service faces having to make considerable and costly changes to our systems used in pilot weather briefing and aviation weather broadcasts in order to accommodate the newer high resolution products. More than likely, we will be unable to make the changes necessary prior to the product termination date and simply will no longer have the data available for use by our briefers in pilot weather briefings that is available to them today from these products.

I have heard from our service provider for CONUS that changes will need to be performed to their systems to accommodate the higher resolution products. Cost and time needed at this point are unknown. It will be necessary for us to have more specific information as to data format, availability, transmit time or accessibility and most likely other information with which to provide to our service provider and other system engineers so they can provide us with an accurate cost and time estimate of the changes necessary to FS21 and/or FlightScape to make the information available for our briefers. The FAA will have similar concerns with Flight Service Stations in Alaska using

different systems and I won't begin to guess if there will be any impact to DUAT, DUATS, WARP and other systems used by the FAA.

In summary the FAA Flight Service Programs Office (FSPO) will need additional information and additional time to determine operational and financial impact of such a proposed change. I would suggest that if at all possible the low resolution products continue until such time that the FAA can establish the impact and implement changes as necessary to its systems prior to the termination of the identified products. I would also request a point of contact for more detailed information that may be needed by engineering for these changes.

RESPONSE: You can use Tim or Mike as your point of contact. You can learn more about the higher-resolution products format in the Interface Control Document (ICD) for the RPG to Class 1 User and the Product Specification available at:

<http://www.roc.noaa.gov/WSR88D/Program/ICDs.aspx>. These products are available now (real time and archive) and are created during each volume scan, just as low-resolution products are.

PRODUCTS NEEDED: "SDUS5I N0R BASE REFLECTIVITY 19/R 16LVL 0.5DEG DS.P19R0".

RESPONSE: This product will be kept until February 2012.

COMMENT: After speaking with my engineering group, I'm going to have to request that if possible you keep the lower resolution data available at least through June of next year. We are in a bind on two fronts. We cannot secure the band width to get the data due to issues with NOAA and we have resource and development issues that would preclude us from making a switch well into next year.

PRODUCTS NEEDED: Lowest scan angle; 0.5 degree products; Bref1, Bvel1, Srv1 through June 2011.

RESPONSE: The first two products will be kept until February 2012. The Srv1 product is not transmitted.

COMMENT: We are still making full use of the 4-bit NEXRAD products in various data processing schemes to produce dozens of our own products. We have a conversion scheme to down convert the newer 8 bit NEXRAD products back down to 4 bit, but it would be nice to not have to take that action. I understand that NOAAPORT bandwidth will become increasingly constrained in the next few years with upcoming dual-polarity and GOES-R feeds, so it would be at least nice to have the legacy 4 bit products available via FTP for data verification purposes.

RESPONSE: Follow-up contact revealed the customer can implement a work around.

COMMENT:

I am writing to request that the NWS not to discontinue the original dissemination of the, base reflectivity NIDS radar products, N0R, which I understand is scheduled to be removed from the SBN/NOAAPORT on 12/1/10. This was outlined in a notice I recently

came across: http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notification/tin09-41_88d.txt

Our software and systems that we use to generate a number of radar products cannot be upgraded in time to support the higher resolution data that was recently added to the SBN. The only product and requesting remain on NOAAPORT is the N0R, since it is used in many of our products.

PRODUCTS NEEDED: 1 SDUS5I N0R BASE REFLECTIVITY 19/R 16LVL
0.5DEG DS.P19R0

I would imagine there are a number of folks in my position that do not have the ability to process the new data formats at this time. Please let me know if this is something that can be postponed.

RESPONSE: This product will be kept until February 2012.

COMMENT: The NWS RIDGE Version 2 will not be operational until April 2011. RIDGE Version 1 and the following products will be needed until 5/1/2011.

PRODUCTS NEEDED:

19/R	*SDUS5i	cccc	N0Rxxx	Base Reflectivity - 124 nmi Range (0.50 Deg)
20/R	*SDUS7i	cccc	N0Zxxx	Base Reflectivity - 248 nmi Range (0.50 Deg)
27/V	*SDUS5i	cccc	N0Vxxx	Base Radial Velocity - 124 nmi Range (0.50 Deg)
37/CR	*SDUS5i	cccc	NCRxxx (1)	Composite Reflectivity - 16 Levels, 124 nmi Range
41/ET	*SDUS7i	cccc	NETxxx (3)	Echo Tops
56/SRM	*SDUS5i	cccc	N0Sxxx (3)	Storm Relative Mean Radial Velocity (0.50 Deg)
57/VIL	*SDUS5i	cccc	NVLxxx (3)	Vertical Integrated Liquid
78/OHP	*SDUS3i	cccc	N1Pxxx (3)	Surface Rainfall Accumulation - One Hour Running Total
80/STP	*SDUS5i	cccc	NTPxxx (3)	Surface Rainfall Accumulation - Storm Total

Contact Information: Tim.D.Crum@noaa.gov or Michael.Istok@noaa.gov.