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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 23-112
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
450 PM EST Thu Dec 14 2023

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

From: Ben Kyger, Director
           NCEP Central Operations

Subject: Minor RTMA and URMA Upgrade to Version 2.10.5: Effective on or
about January 24, 2023

Effective on or about January 24, 2023, beginning with the 1500
Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) cycle (RTMA) and 0900 UTC cycle (URMA),
the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) will upgrade the
Real-Time Mesoscale Analysis (RTMA), its 15-minute updating counterpart,
RTMA with Rapid Updates (RTMA-RU), and the Unrestricted Mesoscale Analysis
(URMA). In the case of a Critical Weather Day or Enhanced Caution Event,
the upgrade will be delayed until the next clear weather day. The changes
consist of:

1. Updating the "RTMA weather status list" files intended for the Federal
Aviation Administration (FAA) to report altimeter setting values instead
of surface pressure at select airport sites. In addition, several
stations have been added to the CONUS and Guam lists at the request of the
FAA, and one station has been removed due to airport relocation.

The new stations are: KADS, KCNO, KDPA, KDTO, KGKY, KLZU, KRYY, KSDM,
KXWA, and PGSN.

And the removed station is: KISN (KXWA replaces this station).

The current "RTMA weather status list" files are located on the NOAA
Operational Model Archive and Distribution System (NOMADS)/FTPPRD at:
https://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/rtma/prod/airport_temps
https://ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/data/nccf/com/rtma/prod/airport_temps/
ftp://ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/rtma/prod/airport_temps/

with the following filename format:
(rtma_sector).FAA_T_stn_analysis_values.txt
Where rtma_sector is: akrtma, gurtma, hirtma, prrtma, rtma2p5

A static list of the new version of these files has been made available
ahead of the upgrade and can be found at:
https://para.nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/static/rtma/v2.10/airport_
temps/

2. A bug affecting the quality control of wind gust observations has been fixed.

3. A mesonet provider (OHDOT) has been removed from the trusted provider list in coordination with the forecast offices.

4. Two stations have been added to the fixed reject list for wind speed and gust at the request of a forecast office.

More information about the RTMA, URMA and RTMA-RU is available at:

https://vlab.noaa.gov/web/715073/home

NCEP encourages users to ensure their decoders are flexible and are able to adequately handle changes in content order, changes in the scaling factor component within the product definition section (PDS) of the gridded binary (GRIB) files, and any volume changes that may be forthcoming. These elements may change with future NCEP model implementations. NCEP will make every attempt to alert users to these changes prior to any implementations.

Questions, comments or requests regarding this change should be directed to the contacts below. We will review feedback and decide whether to proceed.

For questions regarding science changes, please contact:

Daryl Kleist
NCEP/EMC Modeling and Data Assimilation Branch
College Park, MD
rtma.feedback.vlab@noaa.gov

For questions regarding the data flow aspects of these datasets, please contact:

Mary Beth Gerhardt
NCEP Central Operations Dataflow Team Lead (Acting)
ncep.pmb.dataflow@noaa.gov

National Service Change Notices are online at:

https://www.weather.gov/notification/

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