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Technical Implementation Notice 10-58  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
811 AM EST Wed Dec 8 2010

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

From:         Robert Bunge  
              Software Branch Chief  
              Telecommunication Operations Center

Subject: Extend Comment Period for Experimental Service Allowing NDFD  
Users to Identify Updated Grids: Effective December 13, 2010

Effective December 13, 2010, at approximately 1500 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS will extend the comment period for the experimental Recently Updated Grids Service (RUGS) for National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) files encoded in general regularly-distributed information in binary form (GRIB2). RUGS will allow NDFD users to determine which GRIB2 files have been recently updated. The service can be used to avoid needlessly downloading NDFD files that have not been modified.

RUGS is a web service based on the ATOM syndication format. Service users submit an http request to the service consisting of the following inputs:

LOCATIONTYPE: User indicates what type of location input they will provide. Supported location types include Weather Forecast Office (WFO) identifier, NDFD sector name, state abbreviation, or grid point.  
LOCATION: List of location values appropriate for the location type.  
ELEMENT: List of NDFD element identifiers.  
ISSUANCESEARCHTIME: Time to start searching for updated files.  
SEARCHSTARTTIME: Time to start searching for updated valid times within an updated file.  
SEARCHENDTIME: Time to stop searching for updated valid times within an updated file.  
SHOWCHANGEDTIMES: Request valid times that changed in an updated file.

RUGS returns an Atom document containing URLs to updated gridded binary version two (GRIB2) files as constrained by user input. Users can then download the files by accessing the URL.

More details regarding RUGS will be provided in a Service Description Document (SDD), which will be added to the online catalog of NWS products and services before the implementation date at:

<https://products.weather.gov/viewliste.php>

Additional information regarding RUGS is online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/forecasts/xml/rugs>

Users can provide feedback about the experimental rugs service at the following web address:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=rugs>

A public comment period will end on September 30, 2011.

For questions regarding this service, please contact:

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National Technical Implementation Notices are online at:

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

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