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Service Change Notice 22-48
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
210 PM EDT Fri May 27 2022

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From: Mike Farrar, Director
 National Centers for Environmental Prediction

Subject: Upgrade NCEP Global Forecast System to v16.1.6 to Assimilate New
Commercial GNSS-RO Data: Effective March 29, 2022

Effective March 29, 2022, beginning with the 1200 Coordinated Universal
Time (UTC) run, the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP)
upgraded the Global Forecast System (GFS) from version 16.1.5 to 16.1.6.

GFS v16.1.6 is a minor upgrade to begin assimilating Global Navigation
Satellite System radio occultation (GNSS-RO) data from GeoOptics on March
29, 2022. NOAA awarded Delivery Order 4 (DO-4) of its commercial GNSS-RO
data purchase to Spire Global and GeoOptics on February 10, 2022. This
purchase covers 5500 occultations a day from Spire and 500 occultations a
day from GeoOptics, both over a 10 month period with the data flow
starting on March 16, 2022. GFSv16.1.5 currently assimilates GNSS-RO data
from Spire as part of DO-3. The GFS also previously assimilated data from
GeoOptics as part of DO-2. The upgrade for GFSv16.1.6 will turn on the
assimilation of GeoOptics data again with no other changes.

For questions regarding these model changes, please contact:

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For questions regarding the data flow aspects of these data sets, please
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