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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 24-33
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
140 PM EDT Wed Mar 20 2024

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 Upgrade to Version 2.10.7: Effective on or about April 08, 2024

Effective on or about April 08, 2024, beginning with the 1400 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) cycle, the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) will upgrade the Real-Time Mesoscale Analysis (RTMA). In 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 FAA to re-enable the display of altimeter setting ("ALT") values following a correction to the calculations. This correction adds a necessary step of adjusting the analyzed surface pressure to the station elevation prior to computing altimeter setting. This change only applies to CONUS, AK, HI, and PR; no changes are being made for Guam.

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

The initial notification for the enabling of the altimeter setting ("ALT") was part of the following SCN:
https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf_2023_24/scn23-112_rtma_and_urma_v2.10.5.pdf

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 data sets, please contact:

Tony Salemi
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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