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PNSWSH

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

To:           Subscribers:  
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              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

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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