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Service Change Notice 23-61 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
930 AM EDT Thu Aug 31 2023

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

From: Stephen Bieda III, Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Changes to RIDGE II Enhanced (radar.weather.gov) and
Standard (Low Bandwidth) Images Implemented on August 24, 2023

Updated to add information about changes to Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor
(MRMS) file names.

The Radar Integrated Display with Geospatial Elements (RIDGE) Radar
Version II has been producing both low bandwidth images (deemed "Local
Standard Radar") and the Geographic Information System (GIS)-based
application that displays NWS radar data on <https://radar.weather.gov>
(known as Enhanced Version) since its operational replacement of RIDGE
Radar Version I in December of 2020. Enhancements have been made to the
webpage and available products since becoming operational, to improve the
end-user experience. These changes were implemented on August 24, 2023.
These updates focused on improved performance, streamlining the available
radar products, and updating color tables and loop controls.

The primary changes are the removal of selected radar products and a shift
from the utilization of Level II to Level III WSR-88D radar products.
This not only allows for improved load times on the site, but also aligns
RIDGE II with its intended purpose - general radar usage, rather than
complex radar interrogation.

The list of products removed is below:

National Mosaics:

- Raw Base Reflectivity (BREF_RAW)
- Raw Composite Reflectivity (CREF_RAW)

WSR-88D:

- [NOX] Dual-Polarization Differential Reflectivity (BDZD)
- [EET] High Resolution Echo Tops (BEET)
- [NOS] Storm Relative Motion (BSRM)
- [STP] Storm Total Precipitation (BSTP)
- [NOU] Base Velocity (BVEL)
- [HVL] High Resolution VIL (HVIL)

TDWR:

- [NET] Echo Tops (BNET)
- [NVL] Vertically Integrated Liquid (VIL) (BVIL)

- [NCR] Composite Reflectivity (CREF)

Short Range Base Reflectivity is added to the Terminal Doppler Weather Radar (TDWR) option. In addition to these product changes, the Banner Display is removed to increase the screen real estate available on mobile devices. Updates to the Duluth, MN (KDLH) and Riverton, WY (KRIW) Standard Radar domains are incorporated.

Updates to the user interface include updated ESRI basemaps, correcting all radar color curves to match those used by the National Weather Service (NWS), adjusting the functionality of loop controls (including adding speed controls to the Enhanced Version of RIDGE II), and verifying the loop intervals on both the Enhanced and Standard versions.

In addition to the changes to the RIDGE II enhanced and standard pages, changes are made to the MRMS files that are utilized on the site and available as GeoTIFFs for external users to work with in their applications. The updated list of products available from Ridge II from MRMS v12.2.5 include (new product names denoted with an *):

National Mosaics (ALASKA, CARIB, CONUS, GUAM, HAWAII):

- Base Reflectivity (QC'd) (BREF_QCD)
- Composite Reflectivity (QC'd) (CREF_QCD)
- Precipitation Type (PCPN_TYP)
- Echo Tops (NEET_V18)

WSR88D (NWS, DoD, FAA):

- [DTA] Storm Accumulation (BDSA)
- [NOB] SuperRes Base Reflectivity (SR_BREF)*
- [NOG] SuperRes Base Velocity (SR_BVEL)*
- [NOH] Hydrometeor Classification (BDHC)
- [OHA] One Hour Accumulation (BOHA)*

TDWR (FAA):

- [TV0] Base Velocity (BVEL)
- [TZ0] Base Reflectivity (BREF1)
- [TZL] Long Range Reflectivity (BREFL)*

For complete information about the RIDGE II radar page on radar.weather.gov, including the associated available data products and services, please view Service Change Notice (SCN) 20-85:

<https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf2/scn20-85ridge2aab.pdf>

A general Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page for the <https://radar.weather.gov> GIS-based page can be found here:

<https://www.weather.gov/radarfaq>

For comments or questions regarding the information in this notice, please contact:

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For issues regarding outages and the operational support of the RIDGE II application, please contact nco.ops@noaa.gov.

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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