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Public Information Statement, Comment Request  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
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To:           Subscribers:  
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From:        Geoff DiMego, Chief  
              Mesoscale Modeling Branch  
              NCEP/Environmental Modeling Center

Subject: Soliciting Public Comments through August 12, 2012 on Removal of  
the Obsolete RUC Surface Analysis

The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) is seeking  
comments through August 12, 2012, on discontinuing the legacy analysis  
system known as Rapid Update Cycle Surface (RUCS), also known as RUC  
Surface Assimilation System (RSAS). All output products from this system  
would also be discontinued.

This system is based on old technology and analysis grids of equal or  
better resolution and quality are readily available (see below). In  
addition, NCEP wants to conserve resources, not only the compute resource,  
but also the personnel resource needed to port the code to the new Weather  
and Climate Operational Supercomputing System (WCOS).

The RUCS analysis uses optimum interpolation in 2-Dimensions to update its  
hourly products. This is done multiple times each hour with the latest  
result overwriting the previous result. Output products are for 12  
surface parameters on four grids with 15, 40, 60 and 80 km spacing. The  
15 km grid is polar-stereographic, covers North America and is Gridded  
Binary (GRIB) grid #88. The 40 km grid is Lambert conformal, covers the  
Contiguous United States (CONUS) and is GRIB grid #212. The 60 km grid is  
polar-stereographic, covers CONUS and is GRIB grid #87. The 80 km grid is  
Lambert conformal, covers CONUS and is GRIB grid #211.

Three operational systems within the NCEP production suite produce similar  
analyses of surface parameters using the state-of-the-art Gridpoint  
Statistical Interpolation (GSI) analysis scheme. These systems are:

North American Mesoscale (NAM) at 12 km, including NAM's CONUS nest at 4  
km  
- NAM's Alaska nest at 6 km  
- NAM's Hawaii nest at 3 km  
- NAM's Puerto Rico nest at 3 km  
- The 13 km North American Rapid Refresh (RAP), which replaced the CONUS-  
based Rapid Update Cycle (RUC) in May 2012

- Real Time Mesoscale Analysis (RTMA) at 2.5 km over CONUS, Hawaii, Guam and Puerto Rico, and at 3 km over Alaska.

Both the RAP and RTMA are updated hourly, and both RAP and NAM use GSI in 3-Dimensions.

The RUCS output is disseminated via the NWS and NCEP file transfer protocol (FTP) servers. No RUCS products are sent on NOAAPort. Details about the exact RUCS files and the products they contain that are being considered for removal can be found at:

<http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/products/rsas/>

More information about the NAM, RAP and RTMA products that are available as replacements can be found at:

<http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/products/nam/>  
<http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/products/rap/>  
<http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/products/rtma/>

NWS will evaluate all comments to determine whether to proceed with this change. If approved, a Technical Implementation Notice (TIN) will be issued containing implementation dates.

Send comments on this proposal by August 12, 2012 to:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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