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Public Information Statement, Comment Request
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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From: Bill Lapenta, Acting Director
 Environmental Modeling Center
 National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP)

Subject: Soliciting Comments through April 23, 2014 on Modifying Product
Dissemination Time of Hurricane Weather Research and Forecast (HWRF)
System Products

NCEP is proposing to upgrade the Hurricane Weather Research and Forecast (HWRF) modeling system in May 2014. This upgrade would result in HWRF products being distributed to the National Hurricane Center (NHC) and to the public up to 20 minutes later than the current distribution time (and still be able to meet the NHC deadline of t+6). NWS is seeking comments on this proposed upgrade and distribution schedule change by April 23, 2014.

The proposed upgrades to the HWRF modeling system would be:

- Increase in vertical resolution from 42 levels to 61 levels and raise the model top from 50 hPa to 2 hPa.
- Expand the size of intermediate (9km) domain by 20 percent and inner most domain (3km) by 10 percent.
- Implement high-resolution MPIPOM-TC Ocean Model for Atlantic and Eastern Pacific basins.
- Implement RRTMG radiation and upgraded Ferrier-Aligo Microphysics scheme.

The change would improve hurricane track, intensity and structure prediction for users.

The delayed delivery time would affect all HWRF products distributed through the NWS ftp server and the NCEP ftp/http server.

More details about the HWRF are available at:

<http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/HWRF/>

At the close of the public comment period, NWS will evaluate the comments to determine whether to proceed with this upgrade to the HWRP as planned. If a decision is made to move forward, a Technical Implementation Notice will be issued containing the implementation date and more details about the upgrade and resultant product delays.

Please send comments on this proposal to:

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