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From: Brian Gross, Acting Director
 NCEP/Environmental Modeling Center

Subject: Soliciting Comments on the Proposed Upgrade of the RAP and HRRR
Operational Models through January 20, 2018

The Environmental Modeling Center (EMC) and Earth Systems Research Laboratory (ESRL) are proposing to upgrade the Rapid Refresh (RAP) and the High-Resolution Rapid Refresh (HRRR) models in late spring of 2018. The NWS is seeking comments on this proposed change through January 20, 2018.

On November 20, 2017, EMC began disseminating experimental RAPv4 and HRRRv3 guidance to users. This change was announced in an evaluation letter distributed on November 20, 2017. The official evaluation page is online at:

http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/bblake/rap_hrrr/

The RAP will be extended to 39 hours for the 03/09/15/21 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) model cycles to support forecast extensions of the HRRR out to 36 hours at the 00/06/12/18 UTC model cycles. This upgrade also includes the addition of a HRRR-Alaska system, which runs every three hours out to 18 hours and every six hours out to 36 hours. The full list of changes are described in presentations accessible from the official evaluation page. Expected benefits from this upgrade include more optimal precipitation and reflectivity biases, especially in the first few hours of the HRRR, more retention of low-level clouds, overall improvement of synoptic fields, and better depiction of turbulence and winds over terrain.

Current location of RAP output on para nomads:

<http://para.nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/rap/para/>

Current location of HRRR output on para nomads:

<http://para.nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/hrrr/para/>

The NWS will evaluate all comments to determine whether to proceed with this upgrade.

Send comments on this proposal by January 20, 2018 to:

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

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