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Technical Implementation Notice 11-42
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From: Tim McClung
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 Office of Science and Technology

Subject: Real-Time Mesoscale Analysis to Become Operational: Effective
October 4, 2011

Effective Tuesday, October 4, 2011, with the 1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) cycle, the Real-Time Mesoscale Analysis (RTMA) will be upgraded from experimental to operational status. These elements have been available experimentally from the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) since 2006.

The RTMA is a set of gridded surface analyses for the elements listed in Table 1 below. NCEP uses all readily available satellite, Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS), Meteorological Terminal Air Report (METAR), mesonet, buoy, ship and other surface or near-surface sensor data that can be gathered in near-real time to generate the RTMA. Analyses are generated for contiguous U.S. (CONUS) at five and 2.5 km, Alaska at six km, and Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Guam at 2.5 km. All of these fields for all of the resolutions listed above are currently disseminated on NOAAPort.

The transition to operational status will not affect these NOAAPort products because they will keep their current World Meteorological Organization (WMO) headers as listed below.

RTMA grids are also available in the National Digital Guidance Database (NDGD) for the domains listed above, except for the CONUS, for which only 2.5 km horizontal resolution RTMA grids are available. When moved to operational status, the location of the RTMA grids will move from:
<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndgd/GT.rtma/>

to:

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/DF.gr2/DC.ndgd/GT.rtma/>

The filenames on NDGD will stay the same during this transition.

Table 1: WMO Headings Assigned to the RTMA Grids Available on NOAAPort at five km and 2.5 km Horizontal Resolution

WMO Heading	RTMA Parameters
LT*A98 KWBR	temperature analysis
LT*A98 KWBR	temperature analysis uncertainty
LR*A98 KWBR	dewpoint temperature analysis
LR*A98 KWBR	dewpoint temperature analysis uncertainty
LN*A98 KWBR	wind speed analysis
LN*A98 KWBR	wind speed analysis uncertainty
LN*A98 KWBR	wind direction analysis
LN*A98 KWBR	wind direction analysis uncertainty
LU*A98 KWBR	u wind component analysis (NOAAPort ONLY)
LV*A98 KWBR	v wind component analysis (NOAAPort ONLY)
LP*A98 KWBR	surface pressure analysis
LP*A98 KWBR	surface pressure analysis uncertainty
LH*A98 KWBR	RTMA model terrain height
LEMA98 KWBR	Accumulated precipitation (5km for CONUS only)
LEIA98 KWBR	Accumulated precipitation (2.5km for CONUS only)
LAMA98 KWBR	GOES effective cloud amount (CONUS only)

Where * is A for Alaska, C for Puerto Rico, G for Guam, H for Hawaii, I for 2.5km CONUS, M for five km CONUS.

For questions regarding these changes, please contact:

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