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PNSWSH

Technical Implementation Notice 12-36  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
330 PM EDT Tue Aug 28 2012

To:           Subscribers:  
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From:         Timothy McClung  
              Chief, Science Plans Branch  
              Office of Science and Technology

Subject: Change to GRIB Encoding of NCEP Stage II and RTMA Precipitation  
Products: Effective September 18, 2012

Effective on or about Tuesday, September 18, 2012, beginning with the 1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) run, the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) will make changes to the Stage II analysis products and the Real Time Mesoscale Analysis (RTMA) precipitation grids. The subcenter designation in the gridded binary version 2 (GRIB2) encoding will read "4" for Environmental Modeling Center (EMC).

Currently, the GRIB encoding for the Stage II and RTMA precipitation analyses have the originating center set to "7" (for US National Weather Service - NCEP), but the octet for subcenter has not been set and defaults to zero. To more accurately designate the data source, NCEP is setting the subcenter value to "4" for EMC.

NCEP urges all users to ensure their decoder can handle this change. Sample Stage II and RTMA precipitation files can be found at:

<ftp://ftp.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/precip/pcprtma.subcenter>

The Stage II and RTMA precipitation products are made available publically on the NCEP FTP server at:

<ftp://ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/hourly/prod/>

in the nam\_pcpn\_anal.YYYYMMDD directories, where YYYYMMDD is the 4-digit year, month and day. In addition, the RTMA precipitation products are available on NOAAPort with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) headers LEIA98 KWBR and LEMA98 KWBR.

For questions regarding these changes, please contact:

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Before August 16, 2012:  
301-763-8000, x 7248

After August 20, 2012:  
301-683-3678

National Technical Implementation Notices are online at:

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

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