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PNSWSH

Public Information Statement 16-34 Amended  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
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To:           Subscribers:  
              -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
              -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
              -NOAAPort  
              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From:         Geoffrey Dimego  
              Chief, Mesoscale Modeling Branch  
              NCEP/Environmental Modeling Center

Subject: Amended: Soliciting Public Comments on the Removal of North American Model (NAM) and Downscaled GFS by NAM Extension (DGEX) Products through November 11, 2016

Amended to include the removal of the DGEX output, include more clear changes to the NAM12 and extend the comment period.

The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) is proposing to stop producing some products from the NAM and DGEX; and to stop disseminating them via NOAAPort and the NCEP/NWS servers. The NWS is seeking comments on these proposed changes through November 11, 2016.

Today, output from the NAM is made available from grids ranging in resolution from 2.5 km up to 190 km. Many of the legacy low-resolution grids are available for limited forecast hours and fields. The same information is provided on expanded grids with finer-resolution and more variables. Removing these legacy products is crucial to free up compute and network resources to distribute newer products. NCEP is proposing to do the following:

- Remove select NAM and DGEX gridded output products from NOAAPort
- Remove NAM World Meteorological Organization (WMO) fax charts
- Remove select NAM files from NWS and NCEP servers
- Modify NAM archive period on NCEP server
- Remove all DGEX output.

The NWS is currently analyzing the Satellite Broadcast Network (SBN)/NOAAPort to determine the optimal set of products to meet the needs of its forecasters. To make room for increased spatial and temporal resolution output we need to remove legacy lower resolution products. This analysis is being done with every major NCEP model upgrade. With the next NAM upgrade, currently slated for late December or early January, NCEP proposes the changes listed below.

NOAAPort Gridded NAM Products for Proposed Removal:

Grid	Resolution	Forecast Hours	Area	Map Projection
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#218	12 km	00-84	CONUS ICWF*	Lambert Conformal
#242	11.25 km	00-84	Alaska ICWF*	Quad Res Polar Stereographic
#207	95 km	00-60	Reg. Alaska	Polar Stereographic
#215	20 km	00-60	Reg. CONUS	Quad Res. (Lambert Conformal)
#211	80 km	00-60	Reg. CONUS	Lambert Conformal
#217	22 km	00-60	Alaska	Polar Stereographic
#197	5 km	00-60	CONUS NDFD	Lambert Conformal
#198	6 km	00-60	Alaska NDFD	Polar Stereographic

\*The Interactive Computer Worded Forecast (ICWF) products were a limited subset of variables. Not all grid 218 products are slated for removal. The following will be the only NAM12 variables removed:

- TMAX: 2 m above ground
- TMIN: 2 m above ground
- WIND: 10 m above ground
- WDIR: 10 m above ground
- POP: Surface
- DPT: 2 m above ground
- TSTM: Surface
- CPOFP: Surface
- CPOZP: Surface

NCEP will evaluate the need for these grids within the NWS and will reserve the right to remove them once the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) is ready. Notification will be sent of the exact date of removal.

Users can access the full complement of NAM surface and upper-level fields on grids #218 (12 km CONUS) and #242 (11.25 km Alaska) in place of the lower-resolution grids listed above.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO) headers for these grids slated for removal are listed at:

<http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/changes/nam AWIPS grids.shtml>

NOAAPort Gridded DGEX Products for Proposed Removal:

Grid	Resolution	Forecast Hours	Area	Map Projection
----	-----	-----	----	-----
#186	12 km	84-192	Alaska	Limited ICWF Polar Stereographic
#185	12 km	84-192	CONUS	Lambert Conformal
#186	12 km	84-192	Alaska	Polar Stereographic

These ICWF grids contain a limited amount of near-surface data fields, most of which are not available in the full DGEX grids on NOAAPort.

WMO headers for these grids slated for removal are listed at:

[http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/changes/nam\\_AWIPS\\_grids.shtml](http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/changes/nam_AWIPS_grids.shtml)

NAM 00z and 12z cycle WMO-Headed Fax Charts for Proposed Removal:

Description	WMO Header
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00-Hour 200MB Isobar/Temperature	QHUA17 KWBC
00-Hour 500MB Isobar/Temperature	QHTA11 KWBC
00-Hour 700MB Isobar/Temperature	QHTA07 KWBC
00-Hour 850MB Isobar/Temperature	QHUA04 KWBC
Analysis 300MB Isobar	QHUA15 KWBC

Legacy FAX charts are redundant given the availability of NAM graphics on the NCEP Model Analysis and Guidance webpage at:

<http://mag.ncep.noaa.gov/model-guidance-model-area.php#>

Gridded binary (GRIB) Files that will no longer be provided from the NWS servers:

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov> [www.tgftp.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.tgftp.nws.noaa.gov)

These products will be removed from the following, with an exact or replacement product available from the NCEP servers via http, ftp or GRIB filter:

```
/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/MT.nam_CY.CC/RD.YYYMMDD/PT.grid_DF.gr2/  
fh.00FF_tl.press_gr.awp218  
fh.00FF_pa.swl0m_tl.press_gr.awip12  
fh.00FF_tl.press_gr.awip20  
fh.00FF_tl.press_gr.awip3d  
fh.00FF_tl.press_gr.awp211
```

All files in this directory are being removed from:

```
/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/MT.nam_CY.CC/RD.YYYYMMDD/PT.grid_DF.bb/
```

Where CC is 00, 06, 12, 18  
Where YYYYMMDD is Year, Month, Day  
Where FF is forecast hour from 00-48 or 60.

GRIB2 files on the NCEP web servers for proposed removal:

<http://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/nam/prod>  
<ftp://ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/nam/prod>  
[www.ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/data/nccf/com/nam/prod](http://www.ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/data/nccf/com/nam/prod)

```
nam.tCCz.awip218tiles_fff.grib2.tar.gz  
nam.tCCz.awip32tiles_fff.grib2.tar.gz  
tiles.tCCz directory  
nam.tCCz.awip12FF.tm00.10m.uv.grib2  
nam.tCCz.smartakFF.tm00.grib2
```

nam.tCCz.smartconusFF.tm00.grib2

Where CC is cycle 00, 06, 12, 18

Where YYYYMMDD is Year, Month, Day

Where FF is forecast hour from 00-84.

The tiles are created from the NAM GRIB1 post-processing, which is being turned off since NAM post-processing will now be done in GRIB2, from which tiles cannot be generated. Users desiring subsets of NAM output grids can obtain them via the GRIB filter utility on the NCEP NOAA Operational Model Archive and Distribution System (NOMADS) server:

<http://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov> (click on "grib filter" option).

The current archive of NAM daily directories on the NCEP http and ftp servers is 30 days. NWS is proposing to limit the archive to five days. This will allow for a better use of disk space and balance supporting user needs.

<http://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/nam/prod/>  
<ftp://ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/nam/prod/nam.YYYYMMDD>  
[www.ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/data/nccf/com/nam/prod/nam.YYYYMMDD](http://ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/data/nccf/com/nam/prod/nam.YYYYMMDD)

The NWS will evaluate all comments to determine whether to proceed with these changes. If approved, a Technical Implementation Notice will be issued giving 30 days' notice of the implementation date.

The 12 km resolution Downscaled GFS by NAM Extension (DGEX) run was started in 2004 to provide high-resolution guidance to the field to 192 hours. Since the GFS now runs at a comparable resolution to the DGEX and for a longer forecast range, the DGEX is no longer necessary and the resources used to maintain, run, and distribute it can be better used for more advanced modeling systems and products. All NOAAPort listed above and site products listed below would be impacted:

<http://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/dgex/>  
<ftp://ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/dgex/>  
<http://ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/data/nccf/com/dgex/>

Send comments on this proposal to:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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