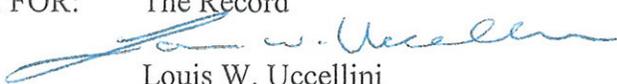




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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FEB -7 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

FROM: 
Louis W. Uccellini
Director, National Centers for Environmental Prediction

SUBJECT: NWS Disposition on the Proposal to Terminate Select Output Products from the Rapid Update Cycle Model

On November 9, 2011, The National Weather Service (NWS) released the proposal http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/pns11ruc_removal.htm to terminate several output products from the Rapid Update Cycle Model (RUC) for public comment. These products include output on an 80 km grid, surface-level files, and 40km grids with data on native vertical levels, all of which have higher resolution equivalents which are equally available to their coarser counterparts. The comment period closed on December 12, 2011.

1. Comments on the proposed change in service:

The process to solicit and evaluate comments and make a decision on the proposal followed NWS Policy Directive 1-10 on the Change Management Process¹. In particular, the NWS notified the public and solicited user comments on the proposal with listings on NWS web sites and email notification via several NCEP customer outreach mechanisms. Over the 33 day period of comment, 3 comments were received from NWS forecasters and private users, indicating they had specific uses for some of the products recommended for termination, particularly the 80 km grid. Solutions using higher-resolution grids to the same effect were offered and accepted.

2. The NWS Decision:

The NWS strives to maximize efficiency and maintain the highest level of relevancy. To achieve this goal, it is appropriate to remove less effective or redundant products. Terminating the RUC 80 km, surface-level and 40km native vertical level products will recover NOAA computing resources, communication bandwidth and storage. Since there are alternate RUC products, as outlined in the notification referenced above, the NWS has decided to terminate these products. This termination will be carried out on or about March 6, 2012 when the RUC model is replaced by the new Rapid Refresh model. These three products will not be produced by the Rapid Refresh model.

¹See <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives>

